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11 Weekender
For women only

14 Flair
Kiev couture

20 Sports
Mac passes Hack

INDEX

Business	15
Food	12
Movies, TV, Crossword	19
Opinion	10
Weekender	11
Sports	20



Mordechai in China
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his wife Kochava tour Beijing's Forbidden City yesterday. Story page 4. (Moshe Milner/GPO)

Histadrut poised to strike today

Late night talks aim to avert walkout by 300,000 workers

By NINA GILBERT
Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman were still negotiating after midnight in a last-ditch attempt to prevent some 300,000 public sector workers from striking at 6 a.m. this morning.
The sides reconvened at 10 p.m. in a final effort to make some progress in the talks, which have been dragging on over the last year.
Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik expressed guarded optimism that an agreement could be reached. "We have plenty of time for negotiations until 6 a.m. The night is still young," he said.
Kucik said progress had been made on all kinds of issues.
After midnight, Peretz formulated a compromise proposal which he said he planned to discuss into the early morning hours with Neeman.
Peretz said he was making every effort to prevent the strike. However, he said, "if someone thinks that because the prime minister is giving up NIS 1,800 a month from a salary of NIS 30,000 and is now telling the workers to give up NIS 30 or NIS 100, he is being cynical."
"We are talking about a big group dealing with whipped cream, while the workers are fighting here for their bread. We have no intention of sending the workers to their jobs without explicit, signed agreements."
The strike would close down government offices; post offices; local authorities; Kupat Holim Clalit; and many other offices. Most Airport Authority workers have signed separate labor agreements, but the Histadrut said engineers and technicians would be on strike, leading to disruptions. Other airport workers said they may strike in solidarity.
Neeman stood firm to his position against any real wage increase, saying the government could not afford it. He said a strike would cause great damage to the economy.
Peretz said the strike would be for "an unlimited amount of time. The Treasury should understand that there is no reason not to give before the strike what it can give after the strike. I hope the Treasury learned a lesson [from the teachers strike] and not us and that we can conclude negotiations before a strike."
The Treasury was offering a 0.75 percent wage increase, which it said is in addition to the recent cost of living increase of 0.5% and other salary increases, such as seniority increments.
The Histadrut is asking for 8% i, but said its only requirement for preventing the strike is a commitment on a framework for resolving differences.
The Histadrut is demanding a revision of wage scales and that the government put a stop to the employment of 25,000 workers via personnel companies.
Peretz said the Histadrut would not strike over numbers, but wanted a commitment on principles.
"We are asking for a framework for a discussion. We are not asking for a discussion on costs. We say that we are willing to find any way to deal with the costs. They are saying we are not even willing to even discuss a framework."
"We are not asking to discuss numbers at this point. Besides, many numbers that [Neeman] issues have no basis, such as the fact that a 1% wage rise costs NIS 700 million. The public should know that this amounts to maybe NIS 250 million."

What happened last time, Page 3

See STRIKE, Page 2

Yeltsin, Clinton summit yields little

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN
MOSCOW (Reuters) — Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin yesterday ended a two-day summit dominated by Russia's economic crisis, with little to show but declarations of mutual support and cooperation on arms control.
"We remain friends," Yeltsin told a joint news conference in the Kremlin at which the US and Russian leaders put on a brave face after more than five hours of talks spread over two days.
But both looked grim and hardly mustered a smile at the end of a summit which failed to heal differences over regional problems and NATO, and was weighed down by problems at home which have put both presidents under pressure to resign.
Clinton promised to back new international financial aid to Russia to help pull it out of its deep economic crisis — but only if Moscow pushes ahead with market reforms.
He said reforms would be painful, but Russia must refuse to bow to the pressure of the Communist-led opposition to turn back the clock to Soviet-style central planning.
"A country that rebuffed Napoleon and Hitler can surely adjust to the realities of the global marketplace," he said.
Despite his well-meaning words, he brought no money to help ease Russia's problems and said the future lay in its own hands.
"America and the international community are, I am convinced, ready to offer further assistance if Russia stays with the path of reforms," Clinton said. "The answer to the present difficulties is to finish the job that has been done, not to stop it in midstream or to reverse course."
Clinton later took his message to a meeting with opposition leaders, some of whom are demanding a return to price controls.

Weizman quits campaign for early elections

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
After provoking a storm of controversy by recommending a quick change in government, President Ezer Weizman said yesterday he was "shutting down all engines" and quitting his campaign to achieve support for holding early elections.
Weizman warned that unless the government is changed soon, the situation could deteriorate into bloodshed, like the suicide terrorist attacks which occurred in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
"I'm doing what I think I should do as president when the state is in crisis," Weizman said yesterday. "If anyone thinks the state isn't in crisis, let him step forth and say so."
He also said the country lacks leadership.
The severance of contact between Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is complete, despite the two men's previous agreement to maintain ongoing contact, sources in Beit Hanassi confirmed yesterday.
Weizman also met yesterday with coalition chairman MK Meir Shtrouf of the Likud and Geshet leader David Levy. Earlier this week the president joined Labor leader Ehud Barak's call for early elections.
In addition, Weizman met representatives of Labor's student organization, who spoke to him about their activity to advance elections.
Weizman told the students that Netanyahu's government has ruined the peace process and brought Israel's relations with Jordan and Egypt to their lowest points.
He added that their party leaders are whiners and are not doing enough to advance the elections, and urged them to pressure Labor leaders to act more firmly to advance the elections and replace Netanyahu.
Weizman also was quoted as calling for Labor to stop trying to form a national-unity government, which he called no more than "a lot of baloney."
Weizman estimated the elections will be held around February or March next year.
By yesterday afternoon, perhaps following angry reactions from the Likud, Weizman announced he was stopping his activity for early elections.
"I'm shutting down all engines," Weizman said. "I'm not creating ferment. I won't deal with it any more. I've had my say in public, and I hope the public stops fermenting over my initiative and we'll see how it develops."
Weizman said he had called on Netanyahu to advance elections three months ago.
"I only want to do my duty as I see fit," he said. "The fact is, the Knesset voted 60-6 to advance the elections."
The Likud reacted sharply to Weizman's meetings, charging him with degrading the institution of the presidency by his activity.
The Likud said "nobody takes Weizman's activity seriously, and every passing day proves Weizman is worthy of the title representative of the opposition rather than president of the state."
Netanyahu said he has no intention of calling early elections, but that "I am concerned about the institution of the presidency. Everyone is entitled to his own private political opinions, but when you are in the presidency it is worthwhile to think about the institution of the presidency over the long term."
Labor MK Haim Ramon said that "there's one overwhelming fact — this government has lost its majority and the prime minister has lost his moral authority to rule. Only 54 MKs support Netanyahu. It's unprecedented that a majority of 60 MKs support dispersing the Knesset and the government is ignoring them."
Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said the elections must be held no later than April or May next year.
Sarid explained that a unilateral Palestinian declaration establishing a state is expected on May 4, and this may cause an explosion of hostilities in the region.
A new government is needed which can prevent the impending disaster and save the state not only from war but from a social-economic disaster of more than 300,000 unemployed toward the end of 1999, Sarid said.
"This number is on the wall, written and signed, and only a blind man or Netanyahu cannot see it," he said.
Batsheva Tsor adds:
Weizman's bureau chief Arye Shumer defended the president's actions yesterday, saying he had broached the idea of early elections with Netanyahu two months ago.
Weizman did not do it as a ruse to topple Netanyahu, he said. Instead, he told Netanyahu that if a referendum was no longer a valid possibility, it might be worthwhile to hold early elections, according to Shumer.
"The president is not in favor of early elections," Shumer said. "He is in favor of examining the possibility."
"People who say the president has overstepped his authority do not know what they are talking about," he added. "It is his duty to hear the MKs from all parts of the spectrum and their thoughts on the matter."
Shumer added that the lines of communication between Beit Hanassi and the Prime Minister's Office remained open.

Who's on strike

- Barring a last-minute agreement, the general strike declared by the Histadrut will affect the following offices and services:
- Local authorities and municipalities;
 - Regional councils, including their transportation services;
 - Garbage collection;
 - Kupat Holim Clalit and its clinics; nurses; administration and maintenance workers in government hospitals;
 - Institutions run by Amal, Mishan and ORT;
 - Magen David Adom, and government hospital emergency rooms and intensive care — operating on a Shabbat schedule;
 - Government ministries;
 - National Insurance Institute;
 - The Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund;
 - Employment Service;
 - Postal Authority;
 - Ports and Railways Authority, but not airport workers who have signed separate labor agreements;
 - Bezeq, the Israel Electric Corporation, the Oil Refineries, Mekorot;
 - University administrative and maintenance workers;
 - Israel Television and Israel Radio will operate under instructions from the Histadrut.

School strike expected to continue after compromise unravels

By ARYEH DEAN CONEN
Talks among the teachers unions, the Education Ministry and the Finance Ministry broke down last night, all but dashing chances to reopen schools today.
However, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said immediately afterwards that he would go to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to seek a way to prevent pupils from being kept home for a third day.
"I'm going to the prime minister from here to try to find some way out of the impasse that has been created," Levy told Channel 1 last night. "The truth is that there is no reason why the children should be home tomorrow. We settled things, we reached agreements, and the reasons that delayed it were resolved."
Levy indicated that he would try to restart talks after his meeting with Netanyahu, asking the teachers representatives not to leave Jerusalem after the meeting broke up.
"There is a problem between the Treasury and the teachers unions, which at the moment I'm not prepared to judge, but I see it as my job to try to resolve the matter tonight still, so from here I'm going to the finance minister and prime minister in an effort to try to solve the strike," Levy said.
Angry teachers union officials blamed the Treasury for the breakdown of the talks.
"We reached a complete agreement with the education minister and we planned to sign tonight and tell the people of Israel that their children were going back to school tomorrow," Histadrut Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat said. "The Treasury undermined this because it wanted to undermine [Histadrut Chairman] Amir Peretz and other unions. It is completely responsible for what happened, so we are all going home and the strike is continuing."
Ran Erez, head of the Secondary Schools Teachers Association, said his union had shown responsibility by making supreme efforts to solve the strike.
"We compromised and gave in on many subjects, and despite this the Treasury, at every opportunity, tried to undermine things, breaking words of honor we got from both the education minister and Treasury officials," he said. "Something like this has never happened, though we've seen difficult things at the Treasury."
The Treasury, for its part, issued a statement, saying: "The Treasury offered the teachers fair offers to maintain their real wages, fair compensation for accompanying school trips. The teachers organizations intend to use pressure and extortion to increase their salaries beyond any logic, while casting the pupils and teachers as a hostages. The teachers are misleading the public and reneged on their intention to sign a wage agreement."
Earlier yesterday it appeared that a solution had been reached that

Idle pupils are big spenders, Page 3

would have involved a 25% salary increase for school principals, to be paid over two years, and payment of NIS 500 per day for teachers accompanying school trips.
However, the Treasury reportedly insisted on signing an overall wage agreement with the teachers, rather than give them salary increases on these specific items.
Cautious optimism had been expressed by officials from the Education Ministry and teachers unions until negotiations to hammer out the final package began in the Finance Ministry in the early evening, at which point that package began to unravel.
The day-long waiting game had parents, teachers and pupils on edge, wondering whether or not to make sandwiches, prepare lesson plans or pack schoolbags.
At midday, Levy emerged from talks with teachers' representatives with a compromise proposal, which he proceeded to discuss by phone with Netanyahu. A spokesman for Levy said Netanyahu asked Levy to bring him the plan once more of the details were worked out, and promised his help.
Levy still was optimistic by late afternoon, saying he thought the agreement that had worked out would allow the schools to reopen. His optimism was shared by Director-General Benzion Dell, who said he was sure that the Treasury would agree.
But Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik poured cold water on that optimism, saying the proposals still left a considerable gap in positions. Kucik then worked through the afternoon with Dell in an attempt to come up with an acceptable agreement.

Kiryat Tivon man suspected of trying to blackmail Sara Netanyahu

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
A resident of Kiryat Tivon, Shmuel Elimelech, is suspected of attempting to blackmail the prime minister's wife, Sara Netanyahu, by threatening to publish diaries and school notebooks from her childhood if she didn't pay him NIS 10,000.
Apparently, when Netanyahu's parents moved out of their Kiryat Tivon residence, they left all kinds of things in the attic, which the new residents threw away.
Elimelech allegedly found Netanyahu's books in the town garbage dump, contacted her and threatened to publish notebooks which would cause her embarrassment. He demanded NIS 10,000 for not publishing them.

See BLACKMAIL, Page 2

See SUMMIT, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Taxi driver stabbed in arm

A Jewish taxi driver was stabbed and lightly wounded last night near the Lions Gate in Jerusalem Old City by an Arab man, about 20, riding a donkey, police said. The donkey rider stabbed the cabbie in the arm after they got into a fight, and the cabbie ran to call police. When he returned to his cab, the Arab had fled, stealing hundreds of shekels from the cab. *Amy Klein*

Mandela accuses Israel of blocking peace

South African President Nelson Mandela yesterday accused Israel of blocking peace, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration had "narrow, chauvinistic interests." "We remain gravely concerned about... the positions taken by the Netanyahu administration in Israel, which has blocked progress toward a just and peaceful solution," Mandela told 53 heads of government attending the Nonaligned Movement summit.

Mandela, who greeted Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the summit with a hug and a kiss, urged renewed efforts to create a Palestinian state. *AP*

Seaman faces murder charge in Senegal

An Israeli merchant seaman, arrested in Italy, is wanted by Senegal for allegedly setting adrift four Senegalese stowaways in the open seas seven years ago, an Israeli official said yesterday. Italian authorities arrested Boris German when he arrived in Taranto two months ago at the request of Interpol, an Israeli diplomatic source said. Italy is now considering an extradition request from Senegal. A conviction could mean a death sentence, said Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who is handling the matter, because Senegal has claimed one of the stowaways died at sea.

No comment was immediately available from Senegalese or Italian authorities. *AP*

Elimelech suspect says he gave her ride

Amos Shelef, who is suspected of helping his brother Yehuda in the murder of Nava Elimelech, 12, was said to have lied about parts of his testimony during a polygraph test yesterday. A senior police official said that Yehuda Shelef, suspected of murdering Elimelech, has admitted during the investigation that he drove her in his bus on the day that she disappeared.

On Monday, Yehuda Shelef was remanded for 10 days and Amos Shelef for four days in the 1982 murder of Elimelech, whose body parts were found wrapped in plastic bags on a Tel Aviv beach. *Itim*

Polish official: Auschwitz cross-planters 'crazy'

Polish Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs Radoslaw Sikorski yesterday termed those putting up crosses in Auschwitz "crazy" and said he was satisfied the Polish government, church and mainstream public opinion had taken a fair and determined stand against them.

"The incident of planting the crosses in Auschwitz will help Poland and its relations with the Jewish community," he told reporters in Tel Aviv. "The people who place the crosses will be isolated as extremists." *Itim*

PA poll shows dissatisfaction over reshuffle

A recent poll carried out by the Palestinian Authority's General Authority of Information among 1,600 Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip showed that 58.6% of Palestinians from the West Bank and 57.9% from the Gaza Strip are unsatisfied with the recent PA cabinet reshuffle.

Some 56.4% of respondents said that the increase of ministerial portfolios will not enhance or strengthen the PA, and some 51.9% believe that the new cabinet is powerless in fighting corruption. Only 11.9% believe that the new cabinet is preparing to declare the creation of a Palestinian state next year.

Of those interviewed, 81.2% were men and 18.8% women. *Mohammed Najib*

Syrian women join husbands in Israel

Six Syrian women, who are married to Druse men who live on the Golan Heights, are to move to Israel today under a family reunification agreement. Seven Syrian women also moved to Israel last week as part of the agreement, which came about after Interior Minister Eli Shussia visited Druse communities on the Golan.

"This step adds another layer to our hope to continue to improve relations and dialogue between Syria and Israel," Shussia said. "We all hope and pray that in the near future the gates will be open and [citizens of both countries will be permitted to travel to the other]." *Itim*

Youth drowns at Palmachim beach

A youth drowned yesterday evening at Palmachim beach. A Magen David Adom crew rushed to the scene, but was unable to revive him. *Itim*

We announce the sudden passing of

ROSE BERMAN

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, September 3, 1998, at 5 p.m., at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery (Morasha junction).

Shiva at 40 Ussishkin St., Ramat Hasharon.

Husband, Charles
Sons, Joel, David, and Mossie Berman
Daughter, Ruth Leibovitz
and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren

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Dr. HERSHEL HERZOG

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That love will be his eternal monument.

TARO Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.
His children: Daniel, Barbara, Laura
His grandchildren: Sofia, Emily
His companion: Ilana Hill

Porat: Early election bill to plenum by beginning of winter recess

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Under heavy pressure from opposition MKs, who accused him of foot-dragging, Knesset Law Committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP) yesterday promised to bring a bill calling for early elections to the plenum before, or by, the opening of the winter session.

"I have no intention whatsoever of holding back the bill," Porat said. "We shall prepare the bill [for its first reading]... and meanwhile the MKs will have time to consider their stand on the issue in accordance with political developments."

This led to speculation that the Knesset could be dissolved within the first week of the winter session, which begins after Succot.

Some 20 MKs yesterday attended what soon turned into a stormy session of the committee, called to consider the bills, which passed a preliminary reading by a 60-6 vote in the plenum on the eve of the summer recess.

"What a turnout... Don't worry, there won't be a vote," said coalition whip Meir Shetreet as he entered the packed committee room.

Porat seemed equally bent on preventing a vote on the issue in the committee.

Opposition MKs, however, were determined to force the issue.

"He is dragging the bill along like a carcass through the market... he is killing it gently, slowly," said Labor's Haim Ramon who, together with his party colleague Ra'an Cohen and Meretz whip Haim Oron had proposed the bills for early elections.

Ramon had collected nine signa-

tures to force Porat to hold the meeting during the summer recess. "Your behavior is unconstitutional," he shouted at Porat.

Another Laborite, Haggai Merom, had a different complaint about Porat - he said he had tried to combine the early elections bill with another bill on the agenda, changes to the Basic Law: Government, which would revoke the direct election of the prime minister.

This too was a ploy to gain time for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Merom said. "But if there is a withdrawal, you'll rush to push the bill through," he added.

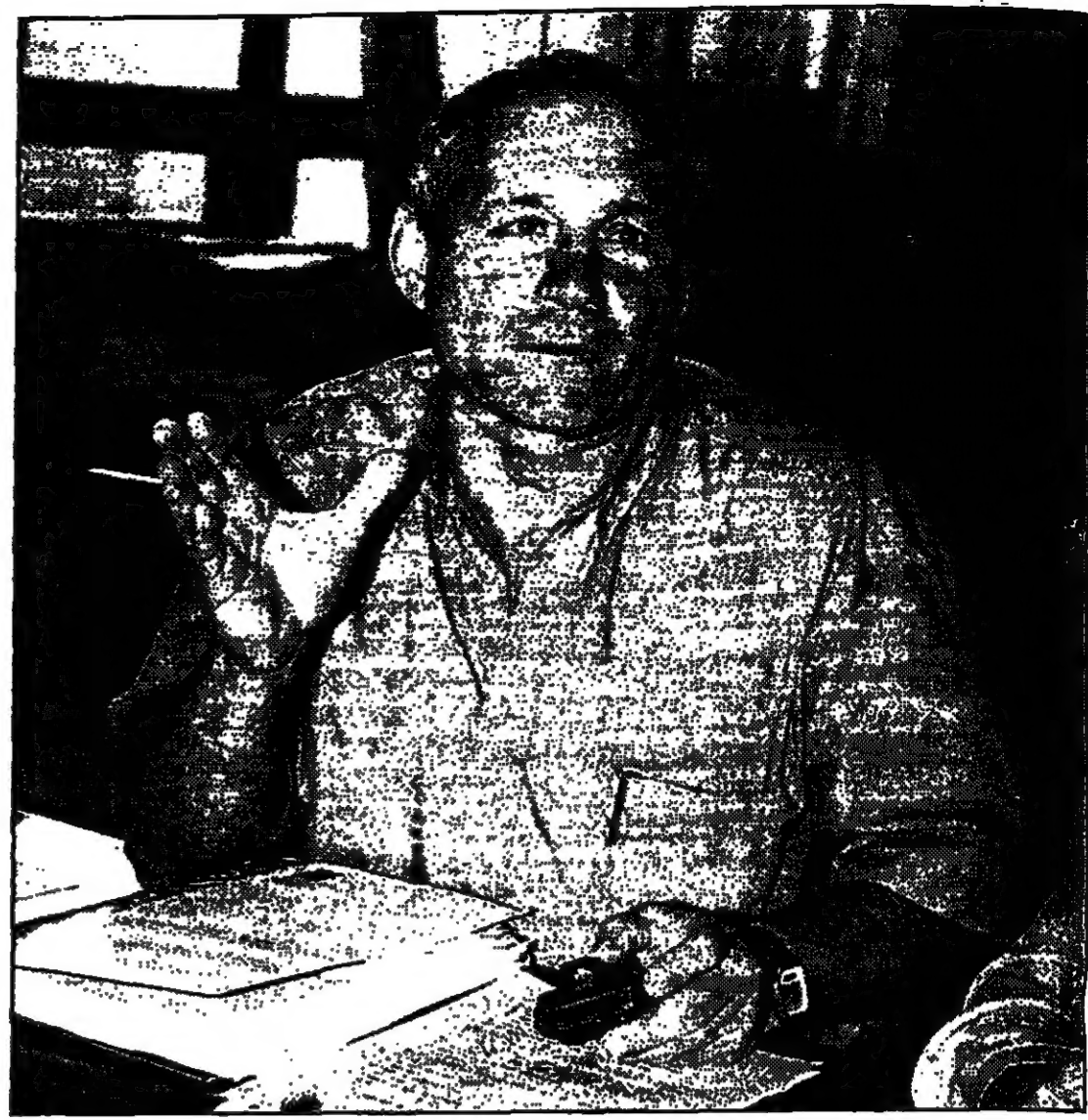
"Dissolution of the Knesset means new elections," Porat responded, explaining his interest in coupling the bills. "This forces us to decide what system we want."

As the opposition heated up the attack, Uzi Landau (Likud) shouted: "Stop this verbal violence."

Labor's Eli Goldschmidt retorted: "How dare you talk about violence. You incited against [Yitzhak] Rabin in the plenum. Now you say you didn't shout him down enough. This is a disgrace."

Landau, who together with Labor's Yossi Beilin had proposed the revoking of the direct elections, said that "Israel's body politic is sick now. We must pass the two bills together so that we can make it better."

Porat said legal experts are divided on whether the plenum can be convened to debate private members' bills during a recess, but that they would begin preparing them so they would be ready before the end of the recess.



Porat: I have no intention of holding back the bill.

(Itim Harel)

Israel denies keeping Gazans from W. Bank universities

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Israeli officials yesterday denied Palestinian Authority claims that Israel is preventing hundreds of Gaza students from attending universities in the West Bank.

In Gaza yesterday, PA Telecommunications Minister Imad Fallouji joined some 40 Palestinian protesters, who demanded they be allowed to pursue their studies freely.

"It is a completely inhumane action," Fallouji said.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the government coordinator of activities in the territories, said yesterday that, "Last year we informed the PA that we were not happy about allowing Palestinian students from Gaza to study at West Bank universities [for security reasons] and therefore we suggested doing it gradually in groups."

Many of the Gazans seeking student permits, Dror said, view them as a means to enter Israel.

At the end of 1997, the PA responded by requesting permits for 130 Gaza students to study at West Bank universities, Dror said. Twenty of the students were rejected for security reasons. However, he said, very few of the remaining students accepted the permits issued to them.

Since then, the situation has been at a standstill, he said, and the PA has not requested additional permits.

The PA, meanwhile, has called on Palestinian academic institutions to refrain from maintaining any academic relations with Israel. PA Higher Education Minister Dr. Munther Salah said yesterday

that the Palestinian University Administrations decided to uphold the decision because of the stalemate in the peace process and Israel's failure to implement a second redeployment.

The decision also was made in response to measures taken by Israel against Palestinian students and teachers.

Israel is intent on continuing its "policy of isolation" by preventing freedom of movement, he said.

Salah said that relations between universities should not be blocked, but that "the occupation policy prevents the establishment of such relations."

Dr. Albert Aghazian, who is responsible for public relations at Bir Zeit University, said that Israel's policies demonstrate that it is intent on preventing any cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli universities.

Dror said that Israeli authorities are keen to assist all students who want to obtain a university education, but that security considerations must be taken into account. Some 1,000 Palestinians attend Israeli institutions of higher learning, he added. In addition, some 1,500 students from Gaza, who entered Israel via Cyprus and Jordan, currently are attending universities in the West Bank, he said.

Israeli authorities are not keen on granting too many permits to Gazan students, he explained, due to concern that they will further strengthen Hamas' position at West Bank universities.

"The September riots in 1996 that broke out following the opening of the northern tunnel exit [in Jerusalem] started in Bir Zeit University," he pointed out.

released that evening. Elimelech said he merely wanted to meet with Netanyahu or her messenger to return the diaries and notebooks, which he had found. He admitted that he expected the messenger to pay him for the books.

The police intend to press charges for threats and blackmail. The notebooks and diaries are presently being held by the police, who plan on returning them to Netanyahu soon.

same time extorting these workers."

At a news conference yesterday afternoon, Neeman and Kucik declared that there would be no wage increase beyond the limits of maintaining real wages.

"This is not the time for wage rises," said Neeman, who warned that a strike would "cause great damage to the economy."

He called on workers to show responsibility and solve their differences at the negotiating table.

Neeman said the government is in the midst of formulating its 1999 budget, and wage restraint is crucial for the government to meet

Israel complains about Hizbullah's firing from villages

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel yesterday submitted a complaint about Hizbullah mortar fire from inside villages north of the security zone to the monitoring group set up after Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996.

The complaint related to firing on Tuesday from Yatar, in the western sector, and from Roumane village, in the eastern sector, early yesterday morning.

The incident occurred shortly after the group concluded its discussions into complaints by Israel and Lebanon over breaches of the 1996 understandings during heavy fighting last week.

Lebanon has also reportedly submitted a complaint relating to the wounding of a Lebanese woman in Masghara village on Tuesday, apparently by SLA shelling.

The monitoring group is to convene at UNIFIL's headquar-

ters in Nakoura next Monday to discuss the complaints. The committee denounced Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket fire on the Golan last Tuesday and also criticized Israel for firing at populated areas north of the zone.

Understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath ban populated areas or public facilities from being used as cover for firing or launching attacks at IDF and SLA targets in the security zone.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

He told them bluntly that no country has grown prosperous by completely ignoring "the ground rules of the global economy."

Yeltsin responded to Clinton's appeals by saying Russia needs moral, not financial support, but pledged to continue the reforms and win a battle with his defiant parliament over approval of a new prime minister and government.

"What we need from the United States is political support, support for Russian reforms," Yeltsin said. "This is what we need. And then all investors who want to come to the reformed Russia, then they will come."

The fast-moving events on Russia's political scene, the effects of which have been felt on financial markets across the world, could not fail to affect the mood at the first formal Russian-US summit since Helsinki in March 1997.

The back-slapping mirth and wisecracks of previous Clinton-Yeltsin was absent. There was a mood of grim determination rather than optimism among Russian and US officials.

The only concrete evidence of results was the signing of several declarations and accords, the most important of which were on arms control.

The presidents signed accords promising tip-offs about worldwide missile launches, pledging to cut plutonium stockpiles, and on security in the next century.

They also issued declarations covering biological weapons, trade and investment, and expressing concern about tensions and violence between ethnic Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo.

its commitments.

He said a budget deficit is a tax, and "it is forbidden to raise the tax burden on citizens. We will make every effort to keep the budget deficit target of 2% of GDP."

Peretz rejected the government's linkage of the international economic situation and the wage agreements.

"The time has come to stop using the workers as scapegoats. Suddenly everyone remembers that this year we had Monica Lewinsky and the Russian economic crisis and that these crises are liable to bring about the collapse of the Israeli economy,"

Clinton appeals for West Bank progress

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB and news agencies

US President Bill Clinton last night called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in a bid to advance them towards an agreement on IDF redeployment in the West Bank. Netanyahu's spokesman, Avigdor Bushinsky, said that during a "protracted" discussion, Clinton promised "to work together with the prime minister to advance the peace process with the Palestinians."

"The president made clear that it is his intention to work for the acceleration of the discussions with the Palestinians as soon as he finishes his trip to Russia," Bushinsky said.

Israel Radio reported that the two discussed the possibility that special negotiator Dennis Ross would return to the region, but Clinton said this would not be weighed until he returns to Washington.

Clinton called Arafat in Durban, South Africa, where the Palestinian leader is attending the Nonaligned Movement summit.

Arafat, in remarks to reporters, denied Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had been close to restarting talks on an Israeli troop withdrawal.

"There is nothing close," Arafat said. "There is still a far distance."

Arafat also rejected Netanyahu's claim that the Palestinians were holding up progress, saying the deadlock is because Israel has refused to accept Washington's peace initiative for the region.

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5. Bids submitted by fax or telegram will not be considered.

صبراً من الامل

Sheetrit: Teachers' strike a scandal; their unions should be abolished

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Branding the teachers' strike "a scandal," coalition chairman Meir Sheetrit yesterday called on the government to close schools until after the holidays if the strike continued, and to limit annual school vacations to the period between August 1 and September 30.

"I'm very angry at the teachers; this is a scandal, and I think also a disgrace to the Education Ministry," Sheetrit told Israel Radio even as negotiations to settle the strike continued.

"What are the teachers fighting for? Over NIS 700 a day for spending the night with their own pupils on an annual school trip? To my mind, such a thing transcends anything known as education in this country. I think spending time with your pupils on a trip isn't only a duty, but fun. It's more educational. And if the salary they pay teachers means anything, this work should be done for nothing, without any demands."

"It's unbelievable," he said. "Soon the parents who walk their children to school will ask for payment for this. Where's the limit?"

He also criticized the way the negotiations had been conducted, asking: "Why can't they negotiate during the day, why only at night? Why do they have to keep parents on edge? Why can't they negotiate from 8 to 5 and then decide if there's school or not?"

Sheetrit said teachers' salaries doubled under the Rabin administration.

"They work only 24 hours a week; they have long vacations every year," he said. "I don't understand what all the crying is about. Many teachers also work more than one position, and their salaries aren't among the lowest. So they shouldn't cry so much."

He added that if he were education minister, he would "close the system down until after the holidays, put the teachers on vacation without pay, and make some order in the system during that time. And if it takes longer, so be it, but make order."

"If I was education minister, I would do this without delay. If they would make order in the system once and for all, and put an end to all these teachers' organizations and all these never-ending battles, with the same money we could guarantee that there aren't more than 30 pupils in a classroom."

Sheetrit also criticized what he said were large numbers of hours allocated to the education system which go to administration. "Who needs so many principals in a school? Why isn't one enough? Why can one mayor, with maybe one or two deputy mayors, run an entire city, and one principal and one assistant principal can't run a high school with 1,000 pupils?" he asked.

Sheetrit also announced he would submit a bill that would have the annual summer vacation limited to two months, from August 1 to September 30, which would include the holiday period.

Responding to Sheetrit's charges, Secondary Schools Teachers Association chairman Ran Erez said: "If Sheetrit doesn't understand so many things, how can he even think about being education minister? As an MK, he's supposed to be a defender of democracy, and in a democratic state there is a place for unions. There are wage agreements which must be honored, and only in a totalitarian state are things done the way MK Meir Sheetrit would like them to be done."

A spokeswoman for the Histadrut Teachers Union said: "First he should understand that for the teachers to be good, they must be compensated properly. There's also a matter of agreements and workers' rights, and someone has to see to that as well."

Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman echoed some of Sheetrit's criticism, adding that even if the teachers do succeed "in bending the Treasury's arm, it will be a Pyrrhic victory, because the strike and the way the struggle has been run by the teachers may leave behind scorched earth in the education system."

Rubinstein says new set of regulations aims to remove 'stigma' felt by settlers

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

A revised set of regulations with regard to law and order in Judea and Samaria aims at improving cooperation between the IDF and the police and removing the "stigma" from the Jewish population there, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said yesterday.

The regulations will replace those from 1994 which followed the Shamgar Commission's report that spoke of "under-enforcement" of law and order among the settlers at the time of

the Machpelah Cave massacre. The settlers have regularly complained that no special regulations are required governing the attitude of law-enforcement bodies toward them.

Under the new regulations, a number of semantic changes have been made that specify that the regulations refer only to "law-breakers" among the Jewish population living over the Green Line and not to the population at large.

In addition, Rubinstein told a news conference yesterday, the regulations will relate to the

behavior of any Jewish person while he is over the Green Line, even if he is merely visiting there or demonstrating.

This, he said, will relieve the feelings of stigma felt among segments of the Jewish population across the Green Line.

The new regulations also take into account legal changes over the past few years, including the adoption of the civil-rights-oriented Arrests Law which restricts the holding of detainees in custody. The law has been extended to cover the Jewish citizens living in areas over the Green Line.

In practical terms, the previous confusion which often existed between the authority of the IDF, the GSS and the police has been straightened out, putting the emphasis on the police for law-enforcement, Rubinstein said.

Following the 1994 report, the Shai (Judea and Samaria) District of the Police was established and it deals with most matters of law-enforcement. The new body of regulations aims at obviating misunderstandings in cases where the IDF is on duty in an area before the police arrive, he said.

In addition, the position of a

special lawyer in the State Attorney's office dealing with law enforcement over the Green Line has been abolished, although, in effect, it was never manned.

Instead, cases of "ideological" law-enforcement (such as against incitement) will be dealt with by the same unit within and across the Green Line, he said.

Rubinstein also expressed concern that the legal cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians was not moving forward fast enough because of lack of interest on the Palestinian side.

Idle pupils are big spenders

By AMY KLEIN

The end of summer vacation might be good for parents and children, but it's not necessarily good for the economy - idle pupils are big spenders.

Shira Licht and Noa Griyovsky, both 11, spent their umpteenth day at the Jerusalem Mall yesterday. Licht said she "wastes" about NIS 100 a day during the summer vacation.

Parents also pay for the extra vacation - not only giving money to their kids, but to pay babysitters to watch the pre-mall crowd. Tamar Harari, 21, has worked an extra two days this summer, watching her three-year-old charge - at NIS 15 an hour - until the state kindergarten begins.

The few vendors eagerly awaiting the reopening of schools were those with businesses located near them.

Shlomo Behar, whose candy store on Jerusalem's Rehov Keren Kayemet is located near three schools, said he doubles his business during the school year. He wants school to start "so I don't go into overdraft."

"Without school there's no business, no kids, and no noise," a toy store owner next door said. "Everything is dead."

But their loss is someone else's gain, as evidenced by the increased business at movie theaters, malls, and restaurants during the summer vacation.

Twice as many people - especially kids - go to the movies during the summer break at the Panorama in Haifa, said Shulamit Rovner, the cashier. But in the past few days, when school was supposed to begin, there weren't as many children at the special matinee, she said.

Over the past couple of days,



Education Minister Yitzhak Levy (right) confers with Ben Zion Dell, his director-general, yesterday.

(Brian Hender)

store owners at the Jerusalem Mall also noticed fewer children. The mall usually sees a 30 percent-50 percent increase in customers during the summer.

"The school strike is good for

us," said Itzhik Sasson, the manager of Playland, a games center for kids. His business almost doubles during vacation, and though traffic was not as heavy yesterday as it was during the rest of the

summer, kids were still lining up at the skeeball machines.

Vacation is always good for the mall in Ramat Aviv, said Pessah Nadler, the financial manager. After school let out in June, he

said, there was a 15 percent increase in business.

But he said he'd rather not have the business because "we don't need stupid kids here. I'd rather see them in school."

What happened last time

The most recent Histadrut general strike, in December 1997, lasted for five days. The strike ended with a clear victory for the labor union, which achieved almost everything it set out to do.

Some 150,000 clerks and municipal workers, encompassing workers of 360 local authorities, paralyzed day-care centers, nursery schools, government-owned corporations and national institutions like the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund. The Clalit health fund, Jerusalem hospitals, universities, ORT schools, colleges, Amidor, Amigur and Zim also were hit.

The strike was launched to protest government demands for cost-cutting measures by local authorities to reduce an overall NIS 4 billion deficit. Some cuts would have "erased workers' bonuses."

The Histadrut's most significant achievement was in forcing the government to consult with it on economic policy.

The way to the agreement was paved when National Labor Court

President Steve Adler postponed hearing contempt of court suits and called both sides into his chambers to hammer out a compromise.

The Treasury agreed to rescind plans to tax study funds and promised not to violate pension agreements. The agreement also called for immediately opening negotiations over wage agreements.

Two issues left for later talks were the transition from budgetary pensions to accumulated pensions, via the pension funds, and deciding whether income eligible for pension deductions would be the average wage or twice that sum.

The strike was not only an organizational win for the Histadrut but also a personal one for Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz. In contrast, Finance Minister Yacov Neeman and Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu suffered a political loss, according to analysts at the time.

According to Prof. Dan Jacobson of Tel Aviv University's Department of Labor Studies, the central principle of the strike - protecting the pension benefits of workers who do not get their pensions from the state budget, but rather from private provident funds - was of interest only to the "middle-class and lower-class" among Histadrut workers, because employees of the strong locals enjoy pensions from the state budget. In this sense, the strike mainly benefited the lower-paid Histadrut members, Jacobson said.

Adler earned high marks from Jacobson for disregarding Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's contempt-of-court orders against Peretz and for facilitating the negotiations between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut which ended the strike.

"Labor disputes," Jacobson declared, "should be settled in negotiations, not in court."

Soldier caught stealing army database

By DAVID RUDGE

A soldier has been caught stealing an army database and using it for illegal purposes following an investigation by a special Military Police team established to tackle computer crime.

The IDF Spokesman said dozens of MPs have been trained to be able to investigate leaks of information and thefts from the army's computer systems.

The recent investigation concentrated on a staff sergeant serving at a base in the center of the country.


The IDF Spokesman said the inquiry dealt with the illegal use of an IDF database for building a

separate database for private, civilian purposes, as well as the theft of army computer programs and other equipment.

Database information, including personal details of IDF soldiers present and past, were found at the soldier's home and his army base, as well as army-purchased computer discs and other hardware.

The spokesman said the soldier admitted to the offenses and had sold some of the database for NIS 100 to a civilian who was also questioned.

There has been increased awareness recently of the risk of information leaking out or being stolen from the IDF's computer systems.



STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of Health
Spokesman's Bureau

Minister of Health's Shields for Outstanding Volunteers

As part of the Ministry's program celebrating the jubilee of the State, this year for the first time, the Minister will award shields to outstanding volunteers, working in Min. of Health frameworks. The shields will be awarded by Health Minister Yehoshua Meizra, at a gala ceremony, to be held in Jerusalem.

The shields will be awarded to Israeli citizens - adults and youth, individuals, groups and voluntary organizations - whose activities have contributed to the health and welfare of the public.

Nomination forms are available at the offices of the Israel National Volunteers Council, 108 Derech Patah Tikva, Tel Aviv 67012, Tel. 03-561 4144, Fax. 03-561 3343.

Nominations must be submitted by Thursday, October 1, 1998.

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Mordechai: We hope to balance China's policy on Mideast

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

BEIJING - Following a meeting here with President Jiang Zemin and top military and government leaders yesterday, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai believes Israel has made a significant step toward balancing China's traditionally pro-Arab position.

"I don't presume the policy of China has changed because of one meeting," Mordechai said. "But I have no doubt that these meetings are having an impact on balancing China's policy."

Mordechai said he proposed to China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, concrete areas where its position could be changed, but refrained from elaborating.

Mordechai met with Jiang at a guest house in Beijing. The meeting was to have lasted half an hour but went on for over 90 minutes.

Mordechai said that Jiang reiterated that China's policy is not to pass on nuclear technology to Iran or help it develop weapons of mass destruction. But he failed to get assurances that China won't sell long-range, surface-to-surface missiles.

"I very much hope that there will be a limitation, or reduction in the freedom of movement so that these advanced technologies won't find their way to countries which threaten Israel," Mordechai said.

"China understands the dangers and understands the security needs of Israel, and I am saying this as an understatement."

Israel lauded China last year for assurances it received that Beijing would not help Iran build a nuclear reactor, but some Israeli analysts say China still transfers key weapons technology to Tehran.

Mordechai also briefed Jiang on the peace talks with the Palestinians.

In his first reaction to North Korea's test launch of a ballistic missile earlier in the week,

Mordechai said: "I think there are two dangers here. The first is that North Korea has this capability and second, it has ties and relations with countries like Iran and Syria. There is no doubt that this... capability is a dangerous development."

Jiang promised his country's help in finding missing IAF aviator Ron Arad through its contacts with Iran.

"I made a personal humanitarian request to him to find a way to get information on Ron Arad that would lead to his freedom," Mordechai said afterward.

According to Mordechai, Jiang said that China had already queried Tehran on the matter but had never received a reply.

"He said he would renew the request," Mordechai said.

Mordechai said he felt there was good chemistry between himself and Jiang. He also appeared to win over the heart of Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian, who ended an hour-long working meeting with a bear hug.

"We attach great importance to your visit and I am confident that your visit will further enhance our mutual understanding and promote the existing friendly relations and cooperation within our two countries and two armed forces," said Chi.

Top People's Liberation Army commanders also took part in the meeting, including Deputy Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Xiong Guangkai.

"I very much hope that this [visit] will bring results," Mordechai told reporters later, adding that the green light had been given to close a deal on communication equipment.

He said that the next six months would tell if the general policy to open up to Israeli business had filtered its way from China's leadership to industrialists.

During the day, Mordechai toured the famous Forbidden City and laid a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes.

He also visited the Tiananmen Square, where he was received by an honor guard at the Chinese Military Museum.



Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov holds a Torah scroll before presenting it to Russian Chief Rabbi Adolf Shayeich yesterday at the opening of a synagogue and Holocaust memorial in Moscow. (AP)

Sharansky meets with Primakov, attends synagogue opening

News agencies

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov discussed the Russian economic crisis during their meeting in Moscow yesterday.

Sharansky also updated Primakov on the peace process, telling him that Israel and the Palestinians had been close to agreement on the second redeployment, but the Palestinians suddenly reversed their opinions on matters that had been agreed upon. He suggested that due to the relations it has established with the Palestinians, Russia is able to play a positive role in the peace process.

He also demanded that Russia take steps to prevent Russian companies from transferring ballistic missile technology to Iran.

Sharansky also joined Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other dignitaries at the opening of a new synagogue and Holocaust memorial in Moscow.

The synagogue has been constructed near a Russian Orthodox church and a mosque on Poklonnaya Gora, a complex built to commemorate Russia's huge losses in World War II.

US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, who traveled to Moscow on Tuesday with President Bill Clinton, also attended.

"Today people bow their heads before the Jews who fell in World

War II, before all victims of fascism, and before the Jews and Russians who died in concentration camps and prisons," Sharansky said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Sharansky called the new synagogue evidence "that there will be no return to a totalitarian regime and that the new, democratic Russia is strong and great not because it erases all differences, but because it respects and develops the culture, traditions, and spiritual life of all peoples living in Russia."

Sharansky also met with leaders of Russia's Jewish community, who told him that the economic crisis has caused a rise in anti-Semitism.

Advocate for former slave laborers: VW lawsuits 'crazy'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Klaus von Muenchhausen, the advocate for former slave laborers at Volkswagen, who won a lonely compensation battle in July, yesterday called two slave-labor lawsuits filed in the US "crazy" initiatives that could harm the deal he attained.

"There is nothing to fight in the court," said von Muenchhausen, an academic from Bremen, who was interviewed by telephone. "This is completely crazy. We have the agreement from July, after we had a hard fight against Volkswagen."

Von Muenchhausen won an agreement in principle from VW to pay compensation to slave laborers. The details were due to be announced after the VW board meets September 11.

"I don't think it will help that they are starting a campaign now," said von Muenchhausen, who is in Israel this week meeting with three groups of former Auschwitz prisoners who were VW slave laborers.

Two slave labor suits were filed this week in the US. One, filed in federal court in Brooklyn, names VW and 11 other German and Austrian companies, including Siemens, Krupp, Daimler-Benz, Audi, BMW and Leica Camera. The second lawsuit, filed in federal court in Newark, New Jersey,

named only Volkswagen.

"They are disturbing things that are going on in Germany," von Muenchhausen said, referring to the VW agreement.

Von Muenchhausen, who says he received no assistance from Jewish organizations or from the class-actions lawyers, also assailed the lawyers' motives.

"I am a nonprofit volunteer - and the lawyers are looking to make money," he said. "This is a business. They are digging for oil." VW, Europe's largest car maker, previously had refused to pay compensation, but von Muenchhausen had threatened to take VW to court unless a settlement was reached by July 31.

He won the support of Gerhard Schroeder, the governor of Lower Saxony, which owns 20 percent of VW. Schroeder is running against Chancellor Helmut Kohl in this month's German federal elections.

VW's agreement came after von Muenchhausen last year won a landmark ruling from a German court that paved the way for Auschwitz survivors to sue for compensation for slave labor in VW factories during the war.

"My goal is that all survivors get money from Volkswagen," he said. "Of course, if they decide that it is not enough money from VW, then we will go to court. But for now we will wait until the eleventh."

Maccabiah victims: Payment offer is an attempt to avoid probe

By AMY KLEIN and news agencies

Organizers of the Maccabiah Games are trying to avoid a proper investigation by offering early compensation to victims of the 1997 bridge collapse, a victims' spokesman said yesterday in Australia.

Colin Elterman, whose daughter Sacha spent 10 months in critical condition after being thrown into the Yarkon River, was responding to news that the Knesset committee investigating the tragedy is considering giving compensation to families before a court determines who was to blame.

In the committee meeting on Monday, MKs decided to draft a bill asking to compensate the families harmed by the collapse in which four Australians were killed and many others were injured.

During the meeting, Eliezer Zandberg (Tsimet) hoped that accelerating the compensation process would help heal the wounds between Israel and the Australian Jewish community.

"There's no dispute about the legal rights of people who were hurt and their families," Zandberg said. "Waiting to determine who is responsible for the collapse would only prolong their suffering."

Israel and the Maccabi World Union have already each pledged \$500,000 to be shared by victims' families, said committee chairman Micha Goldman (Labor), noting that these funds had nothing to do with the committee. Part of the money has already reached some families, he said.

Five people have been indicted in Tel Aviv District Court for causing death by negligence in the bridge collapse.

But Elterman is concerned that the compensation is being pushed so Maccabi World Union chiefs could keep their jobs.

"They are trying to trade off compensation for proper investigation," Elterman said. "There's no way we will buy that. That's frankly immoral. We want compensation, but we want resignations too."

He said the families of the victims wanted the resignations of at least the president and chairman.

"We are not trying to hide anything by offering compensation," said Zandberg, adding that a "sensitive gesture" was misinterpreted as one with ulterior motives.

The committee will not handle any *sub judice* issues related to the disaster. But it does have the power to recommend firing people. The committee expects to submit its findings by April.

PM's adviser for haredi affairs expected to be fired

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to fire Rami Sadan, his adviser on haredi affairs and his wife Sara's unofficial spokesman, sources in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed yesterday.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said the prime minister is waiting for Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander's decision on whether there is a conflict of interests between Sadan's private activities as an advertising agent, public relations adviser, and lobbyist, and his work for the prime minister.

Bushinsky said Netanyahu will act according to Hollander's decision, which is expected any day now.

Netanyahu has reportedly severed all ties with Sadan following a *Yediot Aharonot* exposé, due to be published in its Friday magazine.

The Civil Service Commission has been investigating complaints that Sadan is exploiting his work in the Prime Minister's Office and his relationship with the Netanyahu to promote his private business affairs.

There are also allegations that Sadan lobbied the Prime Minister's Office for bills pro-

posed by people and bodies he worked for. The companies he worked for include Egged, Mifal Hapayis, and haredi bodies.

The story reveals that Sadan was hired by Moshe Kornik, president of Lahav (the bureau of independent workers' organizations), to promote a proposed bill which will cost the state hundreds of millions of shekels annually.

In a conversation with Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Kornik expressed anger that Sadan hadn't yet brought the proposal to Netanyahu's attention. "We paid him \$10,000 to lobby you and Bibi, so that you support our bill,"

he allegedly told an astonished Leon.

The exposé also reports that Sadan offered his services to Egged in the midst of the campaign he was conducting against Netanyahu.

Shlomo Levine, chairman of the Egged secretariat at the time, confirmed to *Yediot* that Sadan had offered the company his services. "I was told he was Sara's public relations man and could straighten things out between us and Bibi," Levine reportedly said. In the end, Egged declined Sadan's services.

Sadan is also employed by Mifal Hapayis, at \$3,000 a month, as adviser for haredi affairs. Mifal

Hapayis is far from pleased with its sales in the haredi community, but dares not fire Sadan for fear of spoiling relations with the Prime Minister's Office, *Yediot* reports.

Sadan denied the allegations against him and is quoted as saying: "The prime minister asked to renew the contract with me. I regret that officials in the Prime Minister's Office are acting against his instructions and publishing groundless accusations."

Bushinsky said from now on he would serve as spokesman for Sara Netanyahu, regarding her activity as the prime minister's wife. "But I won't do public relations for her," he said.

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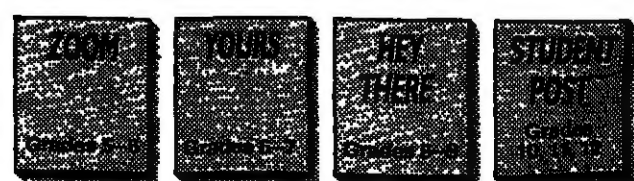
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סוכן מן האהל

Egypt: going nowhere fast

There is just one country ready, willing, and able to lead the Arab world: Egypt.

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Why Egypt? Because more than one of every three Arabs is an Egyptian and because Cairo is still the Arab world's cultural and intellectual capital.

And while most Arab states are either oil wealthy and history poor, or rich with people and just plain poor, Egypt is populous and relatively well-developed.

Who else could possibly play the starring role?

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq nominated himself. The results?

Two disastrous wars that lasted nine years, left hundreds of thousands dead, and led to seven years of international sanctions. Not a very good resume.

Of course, Egypt's claim is based on the years (1952-1970) when Gamal Abdel Nasser reigned and often seemed to rule the whole Arab world. Most Arabs thought — and many still believe — that this was the golden age of their recent history. But that's only true in psychological terms.

Nasser's triumphs were like the battle described by a British officer as, "One more victory like this and there will be no one left to report it."

Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, preferred a very different strategy — rapprochement with the United States and peace with Israel. Since Sadat's assassination in 1981, President Hosni Mubarak has continued those policies while cautiously exploring the possibility of returning to the front of the Arab parade. He seeks to do this, however, on the condition that it will not cost much money or require any risks.

In theory, Egypt is in terrific condition internationally.

It is on good terms with Saudi Arabia and Syria, has excellent ties with the US, peace with Israel, and is the Palestinian Authority's patron. Even Cairo's tense relationship with Iran, Iraq and Libya is improving.

So what's the problem? There are at least five:

1. It's no picnic keeping everyone happy, especially hardline states. Lying down as a bridge over these wide gaps can only result in a weakening of Mubarak's backbone.

For example, Egypt made Syria the arbiter of when the Arab world should begin normalization with Israel. When Israel-Syria talks failed due to Syrian intransigence,

Egypt was helpless to do anything creative to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. Just as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can't gobble cheeseburgers in public, Mubarak must avoid breaking the rules of the Arab world. Threatened by the behavior of Libya, Sudan, and Iraq, Egypt now emphasizes making up with everyone, at least publicly. And although Sudan probably collaborated in the attempt to kill Mubarak, Egypt was powerless to retaliate.

3. At the same time, Egypt is committed to peace with Israel and its good relationship with the US, which still supplies over \$2 billion in badly needed aid every year.

4. A cold peace with Israel also constrains Egypt's maneuverability. The situation has been worsened by Israel's current policy and the deadlock in the peace process. Historically, longtime enmity, domestic pressure in Egypt and the unfinished peace process have restricted Egypt-Israel ties.

But there's one intriguing factor that usually gets forgotten. Egypt wants to see a successful peace process, but considers Israel a potential competitor for regional leadership. This is a ridiculous notion, given Israel's own capabilities and goals as well as most of the Arab world's coolness or hostility.

Yet fear of Israel's power is a deeply sincere, seemingly ineradicable part of the Egyptian world view, exploited by constant scare stories in its media.

There are also the objective facts of Israel's military and economic might. Egypt reads with concern about Israel's close links with Turkey and Jordan as well as the diplomatic breakthroughs with smaller Arab states made by the previous government. It is no accident that Egypt's most energetic international campaign in recent years was an ultimately failed effort to mobilize support against Israel's nuclear capability.

5. At the same time, Egypt's leadership is not conducive to providing strong direction. After two charismatic rulers gave them a 30-year roller-coaster ride, Egyptians may now prefer someone more sedate at the helm. Mubarak has kept Egypt stable, contained an extremist Islamic rebellion, and even made some economic progress.

But there's an Egyptian joke that goes like this: Mubarak asks his chauffeur what route to take to the office. The driver replies, "Nasser always went to the left and Sadat always went to the right." Mubarak thinks a moment, then orders, "Signal left, signal right, and then park."

The Region



Barry Rubin

The birth of the Baby Bills

Microsoft is increasingly spreading its seeds, with former employees starting up companies built remarkably like Bill Gates's company, Joe Mathews reports.

BELLEVUE, Wash. — After he awoke from a coma caused by a life-threatening bicycle accident, Pradeep Singh decided to leave behind his stressful, eight-year career at Microsoft and change his approach to life.

But who can tell the difference? The technology company he founded, Aditi Corp., is eerily like the software giant in Redmond, a 10-minute drive away. Singh's 200 employees work long hours but have flexible schedules. They enjoy generous benefits, from mental health care to free soft drinks. Singh, 41, even keeps a copy of the Microsoft flow chart on his desk, for guidance.

Like the Army or the Mormons, the Boy Scouts or the space program, Microsoft has become an American institution that shapes — and marks — its disciples for life. Nowhere is that influence more apparent than in greater Seattle, where dozens of small high-tech companies have grown on Microsoft's base.

This trend spotlights an irony behind Microsoft's legal troubles with the Justice Department, which argues that the software giant is using its dominance of computer operating systems to stifle smaller companies. Whether that's true or not, Microsoft has inadvertently funded hundreds of new companies — some allies, some competitors — as ex-employees cash in their options to cover the costs of new start-ups.

"It's inevitable that as Microsoft grows, it scatters more and more seeds," says Doug DeSantis, 32, a former Microsoft employee who used to introduce founder Bill Gates's speeches and now runs Nth Dimension, in Bothell, Wash.

"Microsoft is a draw for a rich pool of talent, and that talent leaves to start new companies that, in many cases, will compete with Microsoft."

Founded in 1975, Microsoft has nearly \$14 billion in annual revenue, 25,000 employees, and seemingly boundless earning potential.

FOR MUCH of its history, Gates has kept his workers from leaving his college-like office park in suburban Redmond, known simply as Campus, with a stock option plan so generous it has created six billionaires and an estimated 4,000 millionaires.

Those options are known as the "golden handcuffs," but in recent years, several Microsoft managers have broken free. More than 500 ex-workers have launched their own start-ups — so-called Baby Bills — most of them in software or related fields.

Easing their way is the rise of the Internet, which allows new companies to disseminate their products without replicating Microsoft's costly distribution network. The most prominent companies run by ex-Microsoft workers — from office solutions provider Onyx to the video and



Beijing student Zhu Xidong, right, picks up his newly purchased copy of the Chinese version of Windows98 at a shop in Zhongguancun, known as 'China's Silicon Valley,' at midnight on Monday. Microsoft Corp. launched its Chinese language version of Windows98 in China and said three leading Chinese firms agreed to pre-install it in their desktop lines. (AP)

audio firm RealNetworks — have built their services around the Internet.

Of course, most Microsoft babies have closely aped their parent. All the generous benefits — free soda, laptops on demand, generous health insurance — are standard. Stock options are granted easily.

Microsoft's openness — with e-mail updates across the company and the wide availability of beta, or pre-tested, versions of new products to all employees — is widely emulated.

And when Singh diagrams his new company's business strategy on a yellow legal pad, it is a model of you-know-who's, with one solid long-term revenue stream (operating systems for Microsoft, technical services for Aditi) allowing the company to take chances in other areas.

"We thrived in the fire at Microsoft, and in that kind of

conflagration... you trust the lessons you learn," said Singh, who spent more than \$1.5 million in money he made at Microsoft to build Aditi into a \$5-million company. "So it's only natural that Microsoft alums like me are exporting the company's culture."

The idea of Microsoft as more state of mind than company has flowered most fully on the 23rd floor of a Bellevue office tower. Here are the offices of Microsoft Alumnet, a nonprofit association of former employees that is part Harvard Alumni Association, part Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Tony Audino, a Microsoft executive turned venture capitalist, founded the group in 1995 after trying unsuccessfully to contact old co-workers. Gates pledged his support. In less than three years, more than 1,700 ex-Microsoft workers — all of whom must have left the company "in good

standing," according to bylaws — have paid \$100 to join Alumnet.

Members receive privileges at the Microsoft company store, access to a directory of other Alumnet members, and invitations to the group's forums — on topics from harnessing the latest Internet technology to starting your own foundation. Former employees get discounts on technology purchases and buy group health insurance plans for their new businesses through Alumnet.

The association's most popular product is its quarterly newsletter, the Connection, based on Alumnet's motto: "Stay Connected." Audino's sister, Lisa Audino Davison, and Gates's former executive assistant, Bonnie Tabb, run the group.

"So many people quit but ... always wonder about the place they gave their youth to," said Tabb, who worked at Microsoft from 1984 to 1994. "We've

changed the whole concept of what it means to leave a company — which is to say you never really leave Microsoft."

In fact, many of the Baby Bills exploit their Microsoft ties for financial advantage. Greg Slingstad, the former general manager of Microsoft's Expedia Travel Network, started his own travel software company and won a coveted spot on Explorer, Microsoft's Internet tool, by giving Microsoft part-ownership. At Aditi, Singh's first customer for his 24-hour technical software support service was his old company.

But for most, Microsoft is merely a place from which to fire employees, and lessons.

At Nth Dimension, which produces an online consumer guide for cell phones, DeSantis uses presentation skills he honed during Microsoft product demonstrations, where he introduced Gates.

THE FOUNDERS of Onyx, former Microsoft employees Brent Frei and Brian Janssen, say they learned that it is better to work with the old boss than to compete directly with him. Their company makes a tool that allows businesses to enhance Microsoft's BackOffice software.

"You don't want to compete with Microsoft. You want to leverage them," said Frei, nervously. "Fortunately, they're not in our specific market space yet."

Still, dozens of ex-employees have made private investments in Microsoft competitors. And even start-ups financed with Microsoft money compete with the software giant. Rob Glaser, chief executive of Internet audio and video software maker RealNetworks, is close personally to Gates, and Microsoft owns 10 percent of his company. But that didn't stop Glaser from bitterly criticizing his benefactor's aggressive tactics in testimony last month before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Inside some Baby Bills, there are a few complaints about the culture that has grown up around Microsoft. Onyx's Frei said that the size of his old company hinders innovation. Microsoft's use of more than 5,000 temporary workers — some have filed a lawsuit against the company — is widely criticized. Black ex-employees say they felt isolated in Microsoft's predominantly white culture.

But there are also companies like E-Stamp, a California company that has brought Microsoft culture to the heart of Silicon Valley.

Sunir Kapoor, E-Stamp president and one-time head of Microsoft Europe, says he talks to old co-workers every day about his company, which makes software for buying, downloading and purchasing postage on the Internet.

"On nearly every decision, I think, 'What would Microsoft do?'" Kapoor says. "Sometimes I feel like I never left."

(The Baltimore Sun)

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Author: Saadya Mileikowsky Netanyahu

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ספרים לאחל

North Korea may have gone too far

North Korea's test launch of a long-range missile could backfire – Japan may now join an anti-ballistic missile program and the US Congress may reject more funding for the isolated nation.

By SONNI EFRON
and NORMAN KEMPSTER

TOKYO – For more than five years, North Korea has been skillfully balancing twin policies of begging and brinkmanship, but it may have gone too far Monday by launching what appears to be a new, longer-range ballistic missile, part of which is believed to have flown 828 miles, sailing over the main Japanese island and landing in the Pacific.

Japan immediately condemned the test as "a very dangerous act" and said it "cannot be tolerated." Private Japanese military analysts and media suggested that the launch might prompt Tokyo to sign up for a joint anti-ballistic missile defense program that the United States has been promoting. Japan had been reluctant to commit to the joint Theater Missile Defense program for fear of offending China.

The Clinton administration also deplored the test but insisted that the matter will not

be allowed to derail its Korea policy, including a historic 1994 agreement to provide North Korea with two nuclear reactors and fuel oil in exchange for Pyongyang agreeing to abandon its plutonium weapons program.

But the chairman of the US House Appropriations subcommittee that will handle money for the program said the test virtually assures that Congress will refuse to fund the project.

Nongovernment analysts accused North Korea of trying to blackmail the international community. Some charged that the United States has allowed Pyongyang to get away with similar extortion in the past, probably encouraging the regime to try the same tactics again.

The missile test, North Korea's first since it fired a Rodong missile into the Sea of Japan in 1993, strengthens these critics, who are wary of US attempts to offer incentives for the repressive, Stalinist regime to stop sponsoring terrorism, ice its nuclear program

and, it is hoped, eventually embrace gradualist Chinese-style economic reforms.

The launch came just as a round of US-North Korean talks in New York appeared to be making progress, with reports that North Korea had agreed to allow civilian inspection of a huge underground dig that is under way at a supposedly shuttered nuclear site. The talks resumed Monday with the missile test on the agenda, but there was no immediate word on the outcome.

The test follows the June incursion of a North Korean spy submarine into South Korean waters. It is thus a second slap in the face to South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, whose "Sunshine Policy" of engagement with the isolated, unpredictable North is designed to lead the way to lifting US economic sanctions against Pyongyang.

The incident comes amid renewed concern over starvation in North Korea, which has claimed up to 800,000 lives a

year, according to recent estimates.

US officials said they were not surprised by the test of the missile, believed to be a new two-stage Taepodong 1 missile capable of traveling 1,240 miles – twice the range of the Rodong. State Department spokesman Lee McClenney said the administration had warned that a test could come at any time.

But arms control specialist Henry D. Sokolski said the test is significant because it indicates the North Koreans have mastered the "staging" technology that is key to sending missiles a great distance.

"Now the sky's the limit," said Sokolski, of the Non-Proliferation Policy Education Center in Washington.

North Korea is thought to have one of the world's largest stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. Putting a chemical, biological or even nuclear warhead onto a missile is considered much easier than developing a long-range, reliable delivery system.

Intelligence officials believe North Korea has sold missile technology to the Iranians, the Syrians and the Pakistanis, and possibly other Middle Eastern clients.

Some analysts saw Monday's launch as a missile marketing effort.

And Japan's *Yomiuri* newspaper quoted an unnamed US government source as saying there was information that an Iranian mission was observing the launch.

But McClenney insisted that, despite the test, the missile is not yet operational. Official Pentagon estimates say the Taepodong missile will be complete in 2010, but Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., chairman of the House Asia and Pacific subcommittee, said that assessment may be far too optimistic.

"North Korea can now deploy the Taepodong missile rapidly, with very little warning, just like they deployed the earlier, shorter-range, single-stage Rodong missile after only one test," Bereuter said.

"We must not assume that Pyongyang will require years of testing and further refinement of the missile. ... The speed with which the Taepodong was developed suggests that it is only a matter of time before North Korea possesses truly long-range ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles)."

Rep. Sonny Callahan, R-Ala., chairman of the Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee, said the test doomed the administration's hopes for getting Congress to continue funding the North Korea project.

He said the administration is asking for \$30 million for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, on top of \$130 million that has already been invested.

"This is going to make it very very difficult, if not impossible, to include the administration's request" for North Korea funds in the appropriations bill, Callahan said in a telephone interview.

The North Koreans have been infuriated by Congress's

unwillingness to pay for the 500,000 tons of fuel oil that the United States has pledged to deliver each year for 20 years while the reactors are under construction.

Because of funding delays, only 218,000 tons of the 500,000 tons pledged for delivery by Oct. 20 have been sent this year, a spokesman for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization said.

The administration has been scrambling to come up with the estimated \$28 million to send the fuel oil but has so far been unable to secure the money.

North Korea has repeatedly warned that if the United States reneges on the fuel oil, it may have no choice but to restart its nuclear program.

Several months ago, it also announced that it would continue to market its missile around the world to earn the hard currency it needs, unless the United States lifts the punitive sanctions.

(Los Angeles Times)

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The bumpy road to peace

CROSSING THE JORDAN: Israel's Hard Road to Peace by Samuel Segev. New York, St. Martin's Press. 420 pp. \$29.95.

By Alex Auswaks

One has to take into account the trends in international affairs. Germany was reunited. Nelson Mandela replaced F. W. de Klerk. Britain and the IRA are on speaking terms, and Sinn Féin says it considers violence a thing of the past. Perhaps the spirit of reconciliation will reach the Middle East.

Theoretically, the US has played the role of "facilitator," claiming it would not impose its own blueprint. In a cynical world, who believes its declaration that "we can assist the parties, but we cannot negotiate on their behalf"? But this is not a cynical book. Professor Segev of Hofstra University has dedicated it to Oudi and Amnon, who were born between the wars, who fought in the wars, and who now, finally, taste the promising fruits of peace. May they and we get more than a taste of it.

The book covers every stage of the negotiations with all our neighbors. Every neighbor and every stage is allocated a separate chapter. We are given the events, the personalities of the parties. The influence of the political situation "at home" and of the facilitator are set out. It is the ultimate political book: a record, and, thanks to the detail and a splendid

index, a work of reference. If the author has an axe to grind, he hardly shows it.

What about the visionaries? There is Peres, who sees the European Union as the prototype for the Middle East. At the other end of the spectrum are the Islamic extremists, with their vision of Islamic states governed by interpreters of the Koran. Sandwiched somewhere in between are the pragmatists. Will any of the visionaries succeed? Will they split the society they advanced from? Samuel Segev tells us about the visionaries and their visions, their Realpolitik chances of success.

Then there was Rabin. He was absorbed by one subject: the Arab-Israeli conflict. Segev shows that Rabin presented American Jewry with a dilemma. He didn't see Israel as isolated, didn't think the world was against us. It was another view of Israel and it went against the grain and against history. Segev brings out — in his splendid historical background — that the US did not see Israel as a strategic asset, but was morally committed to the security and survival of the state. Enough to give anyone sleepless nights.

We now realize the extent to which governing the West Bank split Israeli society. Segev gives a clear account of the political and social culture within Israel and how acrimonious it became, especially after Oslo. As TV cameras in Vietnam, so TV cameras in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, wherever. There is an account of the

intifada, which Yasser Arafat hijacked, his forte. How we were wrong about it. Must have been the same readers of tea leaves as before the Yom Kippur War.

Segev shows how the peace process as we know it today began with the Swedish connection. The Swedish foreign minister thought that if American Jews dared to air their disagreements with Israel publicly, a dialogue between Israel and the PLO (and the US and the PLO) was possible. Sweden sent Pierre Schori to talk to American Jews and Schori began with an old friend from the anti-Vietnam war movement, Stanley Sheinbaum, a Peace Now activist. Another Peace Now activist, Rita Hausner, was involved. The Swedish connection was in business and the result was the Stockholm meeting at which the Peacekeepers met the PLO. The Peacekeepers stated quite explicitly that they were there as private American citizens and not to negotiate. The US-PLO dialogue followed.

As far back as September 1989 President Mubarak had presented his plan, appearing on Israel TV for all of us to exert pressure on prime minister Shamir. There was no reciprocal invitation for Shamir to appear on Egyptian TV.

In early 1990 Russia gave permission for its Jews to migrate to Israel. The US said it couldn't facilitate the settlement of these Jews in the territories. The issue nearly died away as Russian Jews proved to be townies.



Samuel Segev

The trouble was that president Bush referred to East Jerusalem as occupied territory. Shamir didn't think he was an honest broker. The confrontations between the US and Israel got under way. Bush thought David Levy was a "channel of reason."

Madrid (30 October 1991) gets maximum attention in the book. The gap between the parties was still wide, but on TV they were more or less seen in the one camera shot and we thought peace was here at last. The conference participants knew different. There was the usual cheating over the composition of the Jordanian delegation, PLO entry through the back door. Everything that Shamir had rejected — Jerusalem residents, deportees, PLO officials — they were all there in Madrid. Shamir was advised not to walk out. It would

have looked bad on TV. Secretary Baker's letters to the various Arab parties were another bitter pill for Israel (and Shamir) to swallow.

Segev gives us enough material to warrant any amount of suspicion of US intentions, moral commitment or not. Israel was on the defensive throughout. Were Bush and Baker personally anti-Israel, or was this a new American foreign policy? Baker claimed his Middle East team was entirely Jewish.

In 1992 there was stalemate. Segev thinks much of it was because of disarray in the Israeli and PLO camps. The US did use its clout to have the UN's "Zionism is racism" resolution rescinded. It looked good. Other than that the moral commitment wasn't showing up much.

On June 23, 1992, Rabin became prime minister. The book is difficult to follow as it is not entirely chronological but according to topics. But at this point it takes off. You can see where Segev's sympathies lie. "It was a new Rabin who was born that victory night. He was not the shy, inexperienced politician who had inherited the premiership from Golda Meir in 1974, constantly subverted by Shimon Peres and upstaged by the late Yigal Alon. It was a very experienced Rabin, confident of himself and with the right mixture of toughness and moderation."

Rabin's mandate was clear: to lead Israel into peace with security, through negotiations from a position of strength, ready for a territorial com-

promise...land for peace." According to Segev, Rabin said, "The days of political maneuvering and blackmail are gone."

Segev says that Rabin was not creative, and not original. But he was prepared to take the risks of peace.

In the meantime the Americans had their elections and announced that the US would become a full partner in the peace talks. (Segev refers to the Bush/Baker team as five extinguishers.) Detailed accounts of the talks follow, especially the constant drawing and re-drawing of maps. The major issue was whether Arafat could be trusted. He had been involved in the massacre of Israeli athletes and was on the Mossad hit list. He had lied to everyone, ostensible friends and foes. Rabin decided to negotiate. It meant recognizing Arafat as the only representative of the Palestinian people. The trouble was that the army and intelligence community were excluded from Oslo (by Peres; the reasons he gave are alone worth the price of the book). No wonder, then, that security problems were insufficiently addressed.

For those who are anti-Oslo, here is a quotation to treasure. It was spoken by an unnamed American official: "Israel decided in Oslo to keep the chestnuts in the fire. Instead of trying to solve the problems Israel decided to defer the solution and to pretend that the problems were already solved. Israel would pay dearly for the nonprofessional way it negotiated in Oslo. Israel appointed the least-

experienced team to negotiate the most complicated conflict."

Who would sign? Peres was to go. Once Arafat decided to go, there was no backing out. Life is full of ironies. Rabin, who did not believe in the Oslo accords, went to Washington to sign. Arafat left Washington totally rehabilitated, a world statesman, no longer a terrorist. Peres and Rabin called it a peace agreement, raising expectations back home.

Successive chapters deal with Morocco and Iraq. King Hussein had asked to meet Shamir personally and urgently. He made it absolutely clear that Iraqi troops would not be permitted on Jordanian soil. There was a ruler Israel could trust. After the Palestinian agreement, the road to a peace treaty with Jordan lay open. Symbolically enough it was signed on the site of a former minefield cleared for the occasion.

Following the Murphy principle that anything that can go wrong will go wrong, the path to peace has been a bumpy one. Each stage has been a recurring cycle of hope bordering on euphoria, of frustration bordering on despair. One could put together a dictionary of quotations from the statements of the negotiators and those who boomed or cheered them on. My clear favorite is Ambassador Ross's definition of his role as a "ladder" that could help the parties to climb down the tree.

But Segev is upbeat. He thinks the peace process has crossed the point of no return. Amen to that.

The good soldier Sharett

SHALL WE EVER MEET AGAIN? Letters of an Ottoman Soldier - 1916-1918 by Moshe Sharett (in Hebrew). The Moshe Sharett Foundation. 415 pp. Price not stated.

By Shimshon Arad

By more than a pinch of partisan and deliberate design and by the erosion caused by the passage of time, the memory and the stature of Israel's first foreign minister and its second prime minister are not what he deserved.

Moshe Sharett was undoubtedly one of the most gifted leaders of the pre-state era, and his contribution in laying the foundations and forging the high standards of the Foreign Ministry and its diplomatic service at its initial stages was widely recognized. What is less appreciated is his introduction of a moral code of political conduct, his projection of the concept of civil society as a prerequisite in the life of a democratic country. But ask today's Israelis under 50, or new immigrants of the last four decades, who Moshe Sharett was, and you will get a very feeble response.

Under these frustrating circumstances, one must commend the tenacity and the determination of his son, Yacov, to publish over the years Sharett's eight volumes of personal diaries, and to assemble now his father's letters. If the diaries of public figures are inevitably suspected of having been designed for future publication, the private letters of a young soldier are more likely to be seen as authentic and honest.

In April 1916, aged 22, Moshe Sharett (Chertok), was inducted into the Ottoman army. He was one of about 120 Jewish graduates of the Herzliya Gymnasium and of two teachers' seminaries in Jerusalem who were conscripted and expected to be trained and commissioned as officers.

Most of the 127 letters that have been preserved were written in Hebrew; some were written in French, German, Russian and even Arabic — a reflection of Sharett's linguistic capabilities, to be later augmented by superb English, not to speak of his perfectly fluent Turkish, which helped him survive the tribulations of military service. The letters are prefaced by an illuminating introduction by his son, who edited the volume and provided very useful footnotes.

The letters reveal the very private facets of the young Sharett, but also the kernels of the future leader and statesman. The editor was absolutely right in not being tempted to censor even the more intimate personal letters, just as he was unwavering in producing the entire diaries, when many critics rebuked him for having exposed his father to the heartless public glare. The value for the student of history is in the authentic material, not in the tailored version of a biased editor.

The question that today's reader may ask is: How did Sharett come to be an officer in the Ottoman army? In 1914, a year after he graduated from high school, Sharett moved to Istanbul to study law, being convinced that he was destined to take part in the leadership of the Jewish community of Palestine in its relations with the Turkish authorities. At the time, the stability and permanence of Ottoman rule over Palestine was not in doubt. World War One broke out when Sharett was visiting Tel Aviv for the summer holiday. He was already involved in the public life of the 85,000-strong Jewish community.

The war caused immense problems to many Jews in Palestine who held alien



Moshe Sharett in Turkish uniform

papers and were formally citizens of countries suddenly at war with Turkey. Many of these people departed in haste. There was a deep concern that the community would dry up. As a result of these developments, a call for "Ottomanization" was launched by prominent leaders, headed in Jerusalem by David Ben-Gurion and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. If Ottomanization was necessary to save the Jewish community in Palestine from the danger of disappearing, there was a real controversy over the question of whether to join the Turkish army. Those in favor argued that it would demonstrate Jewish loyalty to the authorities and minimize the threat of mistreatment during the war. The legendary Trumpeldor of Tel-Hai urged exit from

Palestine, saying that those who left would come back with the liberating allied armies.

While Sharett and his close friend (and future brother-in-law Dov Hoz), joined the army, another intimate friend (and also a future brother-in-law, Elyahu Golomb, the subsequent commander of the Hagana), argued against joining the Ottoman forces, fearing that some of the best young people would be out of the country fighting alien wars.

Within a year Hoz had deserted the Turkish army, for national or personal reasons. Sharett, however, stayed on, but was afflicted by recurring doubts. He rejected the idea of desertion, rationalizing that it would be a violation of his oath and a breach of his moral obligation. Until the last days of the war, Sharett was not certain who would be the ruler of Palestine, and sticking with the Turks was perceived as an act of national responsibility.

The young officer was very much obsessed by moral considerations. These never deserted Sharett, even when he assumed positions of the highest national responsibility; they were bestowed on him, he believed, by his mother's supreme "moral authority." But moral considerations could later be seen as handicapping the political leader, especially when tough decisions had to be taken. In historical perspective, they appear as beacons of light for others to see and follow.

Sharett's excessive zeal to behave well with the Turks was demonstrated in 1917 when a report reached him that the Ottoman authorities were planning to transfer the young Jewish officers serving in Palestine and Syria to distant fronts. The

basis of this report was the rumor that some Palestinian Jews in and out of the Turkish army were engaged in espionage activities for the British. Two of Sharett's colleagues in Syria got orders to depart north, while Sharett himself — perhaps because he was attached to a German command (as an interpreter) — was for a while excluded. Most people would have been content to be excluded. But not young Sharett. He approached the military authorities, advised them that he was part of the same group of high school graduates, and almost solicited a transfer.

As indicated, the letters also reveal the very private face of Sharett. For almost two years, he wrote to Tzipora, his girlfriend and future wife, in a very restrained style, reflecting either caution, insecurity or the prevalent conservatism of the time. He began his letters with "Tzipora, Shalom!" Not "dear" or any other expression of affection. He would invariably end his letters to her with the same dry "shalom."

At the beginning, it looked very odd; but sometime in early 1918, the articulation of affection and love began to surface. It culminated in September of that final year of the war with a most moving letter in which Sharett opens with "My beloved girl," and remarks that, had he kept a diary, he would have recorded two months earlier that "I received from Tzipora her first love letter."

In a letter sent in June 1916, the reader learns that Sharett was for quite some time deeply worried that Tzipora was not really in love with him. He had to endure much misery and anguish, solitude and pain before the redeeming assurance of her love reached him.

Sharett was the loyal soldier to the end; when the war ended he was stationed in Syria. Having decided to be of service to the cause, he started preparing himself to study in London, because the center of gravity had shifted from Istanbul to London. That was how the young Sharett tenaciously fulfilled his mission in life.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. Net Force by Tom Clancy, Steve Pieczanik, Berkeley.
2. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy, Flamingo.
3. Special Delivery by Danielle Steel, Dell, Corgi.
4. Mark of Cain by Ram Oren, Keshet.
5. 10 Lb Penalty by Dick Francis, Jove, Pan.
6. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt, Touchstone.
7. Guilty Pleasures by Lawrence Sanders, Coronet.
8. Angel of Darkness by Caleb Carr, Ballantine, Warner.
9. The Matarrese Countdown by Robert Ludlum, HarperCollins, Bantam.
10. Timequake by Kurt Vonnegut, Berkeley, Vintage.

BOOK BYTES

The "near-future" novels of Kim Stanley Robinson are establishing his name in the top ranks of science fiction writers. Robinson's ideas are narrow-focusing the near-future novel as a distinct, sub-genre of s-f. "If you've set your book in the year 2001, you've written a science fiction novel, even though very little is going to be very different from now."

In terms of literary quality, he believes the best of s-f is equal to the best of what he calls "realist literature." He says, "It's realist literature that's beginning to look a bit nostalgic, and not really paying attention to the bigger picture. To ignore the impacts of science and technology on our lives today is to be false to our experience. As culture itself is turning out to be more of a science fiction experience, the literature [s-f] is becoming more and more central."

Robinson's latest novel, *Aniarcica* (Voyager), is an ecological thriller. In researching the book, the author spent six weeks at the polar cap. "It's really inhospitable. It really gets you back to the state that humanity might have been in during the early ice ages," he says.

CASHING IN on Penguin's success with *The Little Book of Calm*, Ebury Press is coming out with *The Little Book of Stress*. According to the dust jacket, author Rohan Candappa shows you "how to increase your own stress levels, and create stress in others with simple measures such as learning how to snore, never taking any notice of your own limitations, and always putting empty milk cartons back in the refrigerator. Learn to love stress and remember: worrying is just meditation for realists."

AFTER A 45-year separation, Mrs. Jean Bee of Nottingham, England, was reunited with a long-lost friend of her childhood. The reunion took place in a secondhand bookshop in Cardiff, Wales. While she was searching the shelves, a first-edition copy of A. A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young* caught Jean Bee's eye. Opening the book, she read the 1944 inscription, "To Jean, Lots of love on your 8th birthday, from Mummy and Daddy XXX." When she was 17, Bee lent the book to a fellow worker whose son was ill.

Her favorite childhood book never came back, and for years she made do with a paperback copy. But when her father died, she decided to find a hardback edition. "I never dreamed I would see my book again," she said.

Bee paid £16 for a book that originally cost 17 shillings (85 pence). "I imagine it's been passed around from one family to another and I would be delighted if it gave lots of children pleasure over the years. But I don't think I'll be letting anyone borrow it this time," said 65-year-old Mrs. Bee.

VIAGRA, the new wonder drug, is also proving a potent topic for the publishing industry. Simon & Schuster signed a lucrative contract with Dr. Steven Lamm and Gerald Couzens for their book, *The Virility Solution*. Months before the US Food and Drug Administration approved the drug, The gamble paid off, and S&S rushed 40,000 copies off the presses. St. Martin's jumped on the bandwagon with a voracious 250,000-copy first printing of Larry Katzenstein's *Viagra: The Potency Promise*. One selling point: The books will cost considerably less than the pills.

David Brauner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Rainbow Six* by Tom Clancy (Putnam \$27.95) John Clark, leading an international task force, investigates terrorist incidents in Europe.
2. *The First Eagle* by Tony Hillerman (HarperCollins \$25) Two Navajo policemen pursue a mysterious killer — a plague or a person?
3. *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb (Penguin Books/HarperCollins \$27.50) A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic identical twin and face the nightmares of their family.
4. *Summer Sisters* by Judy Blume (Delacorte \$21.95) Two young women from very different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
5. *Point of Origin* by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam \$25.95) Dr. Kay Scarpetta battles an old enemy, a serial killer who has escaped.
6. *Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks (Warner \$23) After finding a seaborne bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.
7. *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding (Viking \$22.95) A year in the life of a thirtysomething female.
8. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden (Knopf \$25) The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to reinvent herself after World War II begins.
9. *A Night Without Armor* by Jewel Kitcher (HarperCollins \$15) The singer-songwriter's poems contemplate love, family, Alaska and life on the road.
10. *The Clone and I* by Danielle Steel (Delacorte \$21.95) A woman believes she has found Mr. Right, a high-tech expert, then is amazed to meet his clone.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom (Doubleday \$19.95) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
2. *The Day Diana Died* by Christopher Andersen (Morrow \$27) An account of the events surrounding the death of the Princess of Wales.
3. *A Pirate Looks at Fifty* by Jimmy Buffett (Random House \$24.95) While traveling to the Amazon, the singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
4. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt (Scribner \$24) An Irish-American recalls his childhood.
5. *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (Broadway \$25) A journalist finds beauty and humor while hiking the Appalachian trail.
6. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko (Longstreet \$22) The lives of wealthy Americans disclose that they have seven characteristics in common.
7. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen E. Ambrose (Simon & Schuster \$27.50) The US Army, from Normandy to the Bulge to Germany's surrender.
8. *A Monk Swimming* by Maureen McCourt (Hyperion \$23.95) The writer and actor (and brother of Frank McCourt) recalls his life in America and Ireland.
9. *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters* by Cookie Roberts (Morrow \$19.95) The TV news anchor's reflections on women in politics and business and as mothers, wives, sisters and friends.
10. *The Gifts of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill (Farrar/Doubleday \$23.50) What Western civilization owes an ancient nomadic tribe.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells (Harper Perennial \$13.50) Three generations of Southern women.
2. *Orphan: Butterfly and Crystal* by V.C. Andrews (Pocket \$3.99) A troubled orphan is adopted by a couple who hope she will become a ballerina.
3. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks (Warner Vision \$5.99) A WWII veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
4. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier (Vintage \$13) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love.
5. *Petals on the River* by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss (Avon \$6.99) An Englishwoman finds love with a widower in 18th-century Virginia.
6. *Little Altars Everywhere* by Rebecca Wells (Harper Perennial \$13) An account of the earlier experiences of members of the Ya-Ya sisterhood.
7. *Rising Tides* by Nora Roberts (Jove \$7.50) Returning to his home on the Maryland shore, a man finds a new love.
8. *The Best Laid Plans* by Sidney Sheldon (Warner \$7.99) The relationship between a power-hungry governor and a woman determined to break revenge.
9. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy (Harper Perennial \$13) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous family in India.
10. *She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb (Pocket \$7.99) A woman's harrowing progress from youth to middle age.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger (Harper Paperbacks \$5.99) The story of the northeast of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
2. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest, the deadliest season in history.
3. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes (Broadway \$13) A celebration of life in the Italian countryside.
4. *D-Day, June 6, 1944* by Stephen E. Ambrose (Touchstone/S&S \$16) An account of the Allied invasion of Normandy.
5. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95) A young man's obsession with the wilderness.
6. *The Color of Water* by James McBride (Farrar \$12) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
7. *The Climbs* by Anatoli Boukreev and G. Weston Dewalt (St. Martin's \$5.99) Another account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster.
8. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin (Hyperion \$10.95) Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up comedian.
9. *Dirty Jokes and Beer* by Drew Carey (Hyperion \$6.99) Observances on life by the comedian.
10. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr (Vintage \$13) A lawsuit against industrial polluters.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins (Avon \$6.50) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
2. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson (Hyperion \$8.95) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
3. *Protein Power* by Michael R. Eades (Bantam \$6.50) Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.
4. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox (West Highland \$6.95) A guide for collectors of the toys.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Sugar Busters* by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.
2. *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* by Suzanne Orman (Crown \$23) Practical and spiritual steps for managing your money.
3. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* by John Gray (HarperCollins \$25) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *In the Meantime* by Iyanla Vanzant (Simon & Schuster \$23) Ways to find what you truly need, particularly "the love that you want."

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The rule of law

The importance of the rule of law is so firmly entrenched in the mind of virtually every member of society that debates about its merits can seem superfluous, if not bizarre. Respect for the law and law enforcement officers is obviously one of the pillars of a democratic society. It is difficult to imagine a mainstream politician coming out with a strong statement essentially condoning a situation of large-scale unlawful activity.

Yet somehow, whenever the subject of law enforcement in the Jewish communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza is raised, it immediately becomes a controversial topic. Some political elements, seeking to prevent "negative stigmas" from attaching to their residents, pull on public and private strings to tie the hands of the police and prosecutors acting against flagrant violators of the law.

Law enforcement mechanisms relating to settlers are still in a state of flux and confusion, more than 31 years after the Six Day War, as attested by the fact that yesterday Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein announced yet another restructuring of the law enforcement rules, replacing the security regulations in force since the 1994 massacre in the Machpela Cave.

The extent to which the powers of the police and prosecution have eroded was graphically displayed last week in televised images of policemen reduced to pleading with individuals, allegedly involved in crimes in Hebron, to accept summons to appear for questioning. In most places in the civilized world, say Tel Aviv or Haifa, those who repeatedly thumb their noses at such warrants risk being forcibly dragged off to the nearest police station.

The Jewish residents of Hebron, in contrast, have the luxury of announcing with impunity that they will drop by the station for questioning "as soon as they find some free time."

The litany of appalling actions taken by some settlers against the property and bodies of Palestinians is well known. Television crews have for years been filming self-declared "brigades" of settlers from a small number of settlements who conduct "patrols" in neighboring Palestinian villages, smashing windows and damaging cars along the way.

Law enforcement officials are well aware of the most troublesome places, such as Yitzhar, some of whose residents have been indicted for arson, firing in a populated area, and aggravated assault on Palestinians, or Hebron, where clashes with Palestinians are regularly initiated by Jews, who even encourage their children to join in overturning market stalls owned by Palestinians and pelting Palestinian passersby with eggs and tomatoes. Indeed, there has recently been a sharp increase in incidents of violence in Hebron and attempts to enforce the law against settlers have been feeble at best.

To be sure, the situation in Judea, Samaria and

Gaza cannot be directly compared to daily realities elsewhere. For one thing, since the ultimate sovereign status of the territories is still an open question, the law in force is a strange hodge-podge of IDF military orders grafted onto a confused body of Turkish, Mandatory and Jordanian laws.

Picking one's way through this maze of perplexing legal rules, and fully understanding what applies to Palestinians versus Israelis is difficult, to say the least. In addition, the dividing line between the authority of the police and that of the IDF in enforcing the law has never been satisfactorily drawn.

Law enforcement problems are virtually all related to violence committed between Palestinians and Jewish residents and thus become related in people's minds not with criminal activity but with the ongoing conflict between Jews and Arabs over the Land of Israel. Almost all of the problems are concentrated in a handful of settlements populated by fringe elements.

Finally, the settlers have for years been victims of vicious acts of terrorism and violence, which has left some of them feeling undefended and abandoned. It is the latter point especially that has spurred a number of political figures to adopt an attitude that instances of settlers taking the law into their own hands should be met with understanding or turning a blind eye.

Yet it is precisely those who most want to advance the cause of the settlements who should be insisting on the establishment of proper law enforcement within them. If settlements are perceived by the mainstream public as being hotbeds of extremism, violence and a lack of respect for the law and its enforcers, the result is a sense of estrangement.

This works against the settlements as permanent status talks approach, because Israel's positions will be affected by the consensus forming in the Israeli public. Realistically speaking, the future of the Jewish communities in the territories depends on how legitimate they seem and the extent to which they are perceived as willing to live peacefully with their Palestinian neighbors.

These facts are apparently understood by a number of leaders within the settlements, such as Elyakim Ha'etzi and Aharon Dorn, who have spoken out against the damage caused by extremists in places such as Hebron. They and their political allies should therefore be among the first to praise Rubinstein's announcement of new law enforcement rules, which have been carefully calculated to remove stigmas against the settlers and normalize as far as possible police and prosecutorial work against law-breakers within settlements.

Those who would wish to build "facts on the ground" need to remember that intangibles such as the rule of law can in the long run be more important than fences and towers.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



No more mindless concessions

AARON LERNER

Some people are mourning what they see as the closing of the "window of opportunity" to make peace. But the so-called "window" never really offered peace. Instead it provided ad hoc justifications for mindless concessions.

For the "concede now" crowd, the fall of the USSR heralded a golden age. Israel could trade its ability to defend itself for guarantees from the world's only remaining superpower.

While Uncle Sam would ensure that Israel's neighbors would not try to take advantage of the Jewish state's lack of strategic depth, regional prosperity would neutralize the threat of the Islamic fundamentalists.

The defeat of the Islamic fundamentalists through prosperity, even if possible, assumed a sufficient condition for such prosperity in the Middle East to be the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The world economy could go to hell in a basket, oil prices could plunge, but for some reason the "concede now" crowd didn't think it would matter.

The economic shock waves now pulsating across the globe serve as a harsh reminder that the Middle East is anything but an insular economy.

When Shimon Peres suggested that the best defense against Syria is a line of Syrian hotels he surely assumed that they would have a respectable occupancy rate.

"Concede now" advocates argued that the fall of the USSR would remove the supply of Soviet weapons systems from the equation. But the opposite has happened.

The Russian arms industry continues to develop and market weapons systems which rival the West and arrangements have been made (with the help of, among others, the Saudis) to renew supplies even to Syria, despite its much touted debts.

The fall of the Soviet Union has made the region that much more dangerous as a cash-hungry Russia offers previously restricted technology and know-how to any

taking advantage of the chaotic situation in Russia and the former constituent states.

To make matters even worse, Asiatic weapons suppliers are also more active than ever before.

THE CLINTON administration has demonstrated only too well its penchant to avoid fulfilling its leadership role. Revelations by former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter that US Secretary of State Albright has been responsible for blocking more critical inspections in Iraq than Saddam Hussein send a clear warning to anyone who advocates basing Israeli security on third-party supervision.

Despite these developments, as well as increasingly disturbing developments in the new Faahlands, President Weizman, who claims to sense the pulse of the nation, essentially calls for peace (treaties) at any price. But that's not what the Israeli people think. They don't want Netanyahu

to rush negotiations.

This week, for example, an IMRA-commissioned Gallup poll of Israeli Jews found that less than one-third support accelerating talks with the Palestinians in order to sign the agreements before Yasser Arafat's health forces him off the scene.

Israelis don't have Oslo fantasies. While Oslo enthusiasts routinely claim that the overwhelming majority of Israelis support Oslo, the polls don't back the claim. Just this week a survey of Israeli Jews commissioned by Tel Aviv University's Steinmetz Center for Peace Research found that less than 42% support the Oslo agreement.

This should come as no surprise, considering that the survey found Israelis feel the peace process has hurt security, Jewish unity, the democratic nature of the country and even the economy.

Israelis also strongly reject Palestinian demands, with only 20% supporting the removal of all or most settlements and less than 11% solidly supporting handing over eastern Jerusalem to Arafat even if that turns out to be the only thing preventing the completion of a peace treaty.

And they are realistic about the ramifications of their stand, with only about a third believing that Oslo will lead to peace in the coming years.

In retrospect, the primary goal of Oslo, as explained by the late prime minister Rabin, has already been achieved, with 97% of the Palestinian population no longer subject to Israeli control over their daily lives. That is not what is on the table today.

Last week Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that he would sign a treaty with either Syria or Arafat by the year 2000. If Mr. Netanyahu can cut a deal which ensures true peace and does not compromise Israeli interests, more power to him. But if he can't then he can be assured that President Weizman notwithstanding, the country is not pressing him with stopwatch in hand.

Reluctant ambassador

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

When somebody abroad asks where I live, there is always a fraction of a second's hesitation before I answer - and then a fraction of a second before my inquirer's response.

For whatever may be said about the country, good or bad, one thing can be asserted with near certainty: Nobody is neutral about Israel.

From the moment he learns my domicile, a stranger's opinion of me will be colored, rightly or wrongly, by his opinion toward the state. And the potentially even more distressing thought: His future attitude toward Israel will be influenced by the way he feels about me. If only he had met me with an Amos Oz, an Arik Shalvi, or a Menahem Elinor, he would guarantee high ratings for ever.

Instead, I find myself drafted to be an ambassador, however reluctantly.

Whether I choose to be assuming or outrageous within the country's borders, I represent myself alone. But once the territorial threshold is crossed, I become the prototype for the whole nation. To the man on the foreign street, I am the Average Israeli. We all are.

So while replying with practiced casualness, I am in reality watching with keen, exaggerated concentration: Does my listener smile? Do his eyes light up? Does he purse his lips? Look ambivalent?

His body language votes "Yes" or "No." Then it is up to me to confirm - or correct - it.

Though aware that it is not my job, nor anybody's, to be a credit to my state, I cannot shake the feeling that I should at least try.

Hearing of some Israeli feat or other, I puff up with inadvertent pride, as if I too were a better person because of the new genetic breakthrough announced by the Weizmann Institute. Likewise, I color with embarrassment at yet another public faux pas.

WHILE abroad this summer I held power in trust when faced with questions like, "So what do the folks over there think of Monica and Bill?" or "What's the Israeli take on public health care?" or even "You don't mean to say it's as hot as Dallas?" Handling critical comments was toughest - especially if I agreed with them.

Queried in the role of expert witness, I accepted. For a brief moment I became the Government Press Office, opinion pollster, and Harzuyim puppets all rolled into one. Whatever I chose to answer became the Truth. At least until the next witness took the stand.

"Stocking up on Levi's and Tyleon for your return trip?" my American friends asked, trying to keep a straight face. I of course am to blame for having recounted years ago that Israel lacked certain commodities considered indispensable to human survival. And now I'm at fault once again, for allowing the pioneering past to remain an uncorrected misconception.

Once you've become a spokesperson, I've learned, you have the responsibility to update your public.

This year has brought wildly disparate views of Israelis into the spotlight. Watching bespangled Dana International's blazing victory in the Eurovision song contest, many around the world concluded that Israel is a country in the forefront of sexual liberalism. About the same time as Dana won, *Newsweek* featured a story about a brutal no-holds-barred self-defense method taking the United States by storm; Krav Maga was introduced by an Israeli.

Following the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania Israel finally got some good press with its top-notch rescue teams saving lives amongst the rubble.

Who could remain indifferent when reading that Israel never forgot that Kenya had allowed the Israeli plane to land for refueling on its way back from Eatebe? But will this summer's Israeli help be viewed as realpolitik or as an Aesop fable?

Discussing literature with a lawyer from India, he told me that there was one Israeli novelist he really loved. "And a certain terrific book of his in particular," he said, "about a parachutist during the 1956 campaign in the Sinai Desert."

I looked puzzled. The book's name was right on the tip of his tongue; from that I would recognize the author. "I have it," he finally beamed. "*Mila Pass!* And he wrote another good book too, one called *Exodus*."

I trust Leon Uris will forgive me for leaving his nationality uncorrected. I did it in the name of poetic license, and within the scope of my role as Goodwill Ambassador.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Sir, - After centuries of anti-semitic persecution waged in the name of the church and under the sign of the cross, the sacred Christian symbol has become to Jews an emblem of death.

This doesn't mean that the cross is any less precious to believers in Jesus, to whom it symbolizes both the sacrificial death of our savior, and the life of giving He calls on us to lead as his followers.

But it should mean that we are sensitive to the pain caused under the shadow of the cross, and to the

responsibility every Christian shares in the evil perpetrated against Jews in the name of our faith.

The current controversy at the Auschwitz extermination camp has assumed an ugly antisemitic tone, and now has less to do with the right of Polish Catholics to plant their religious symbols where they will, than with an offensive campaign of one-upmanship by a curious assortment of skinheads, misguided churchgoers and right-wing extremists.

NAIVE DREAMERS

Sir, - In "No cause for celebration" (August 28), Moshe Arens' incisive critique of Oslo as "an error of historic proportions," was no exaggeration.

Peres, Beilin and Savir, Israel's negotiators, were incredibly naive dreamers, whose reckless disregard for Israel's interests is now apparent.

They dragged a skeptical and reluctant Rabin into this "quagmire," the worst scenarios of

which have yet to be played out. Joel Singer, who was sent to Oslo by Rabin, to "cool" the euphoric determination to forge an agreement at whatever future cost to Israel, was faced with a virtual fait accompli and expressed his grave misgivings about the wisdom of what our representatives had wrought.

With Arafat and the PA abrogating each and every commitment signed, time has proven Singer

Letters of protest should be sent to Polish embassies and representatives of the Catholic Church world-wide.

With enough support, such a move by Christians could yield positive results at Auschwitz, and be a significant step towards true reconciliation between Christians and Jews. Our history compels us to act.

PATRICK GOODENOUGH
Jerusalem.

right. Oslo has given Arafat a win/win situation. But as Mr. Arens pointed out in closing, the Palestinians living under his rule and subject to arbitrary arrest, torture while incarcerated and extortion to win their release, are perhaps not so lucky.

FAY DICKER
Brooklyn, NY.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 3, 1933, *The Palestine Post* published a cable from Prague, sent by the Post's founder and first editor, Gershon Agnon, on the current deliberations of the 18th Zionist Congress. Agnon wrote that not the least of Hitler's contributions to Zionism was the dethroning of the German language which had been replaced at the Congress by Yiddish and Hebrew.

50 years ago: On September 3, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported a new Ministry of Finance taxation policy which would entail the suspension of the Yishuv's unofficial income tax, the doubling of the newly introduced official Israeli income tax and the imposition of war tax, retroactive as from April 1, 1948. The government was also considering the imposition of a compulsory national loan to cover the costs of

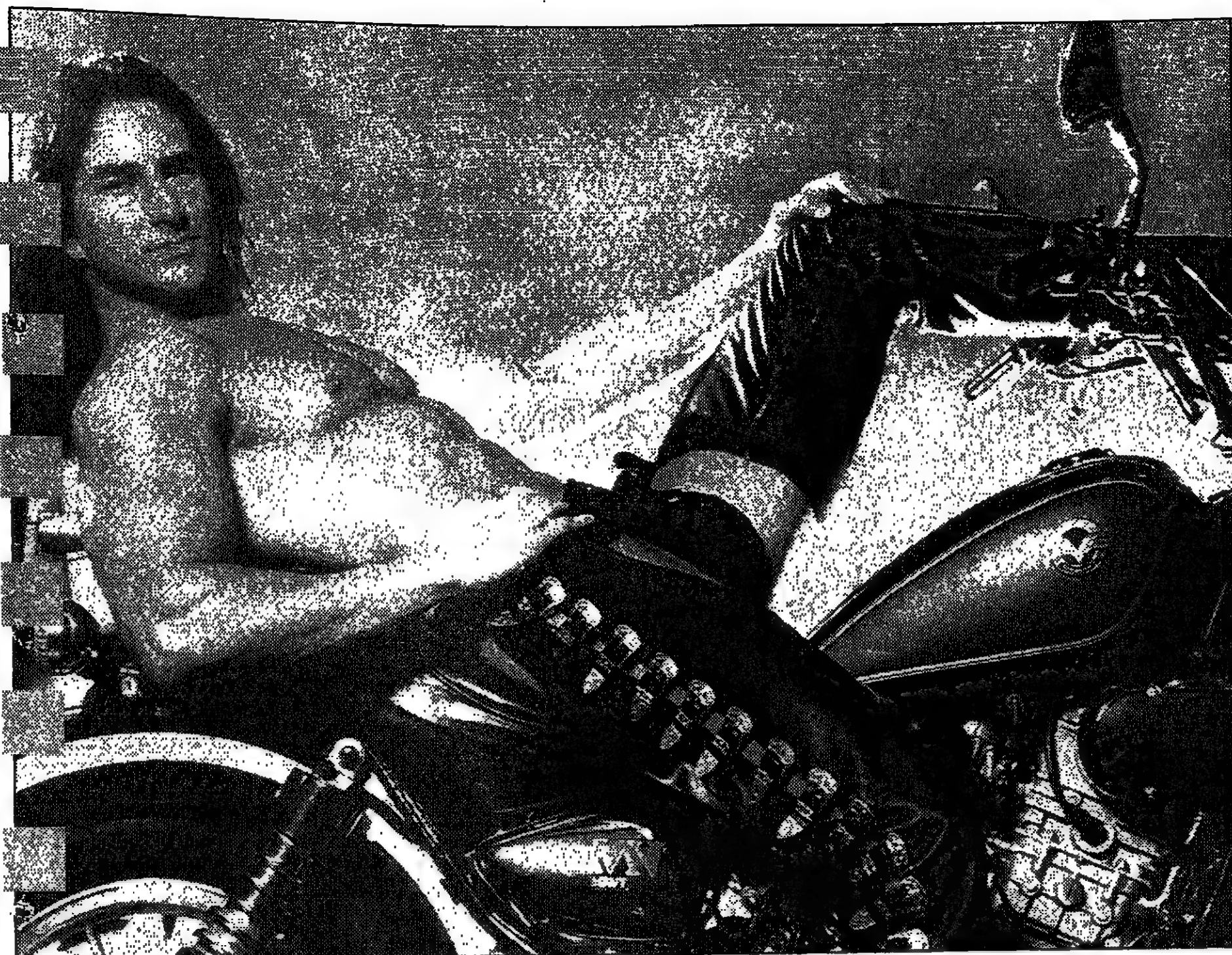
the war.

25 years ago: On September 3, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported brief earthquake tremors from various parts of Israel - particularly in the Beit She'an and Lower Jordan Valley areas. The earthquake caused minor damage to buildings. It measured 4.5 on the Richter Scale (out of the total of nine).

Alexander Zvielli

صكنا من الامل

Weekender



Kyle Brenner (27) was in the process of obtaining a nursing degree – after serving in the US army as a medic – when he became a Chippendales.

For women only

What makes grown women flock to see the Chippendales take off their clothes?

By SONIE LEMOR

If you didn't see *The Full Monty*, you still have the opportunity to see men undressing on stage: The Chippendales launch their short tour here Saturday night in Tel Aviv. Chippendales audiences aren't made up solely of lusty teens. Whenever the male strippers perform, they attract lots of nice, middle-class women of all ages. But men aren't allowed. The 10-strong group performs for women only, and it's been that way since 1979, when a Californian businessman named Thomas Chippendale decided to do something different. He had just opened up a new nightclub in Los Angeles and wanted to have a regular dance show that would be totally different. He recruited about 15 or so male models who could dance and sing while they stripped. The idea was so successful that in 1983 a new Chippendales club opened in New York. During the Eighties a third group of Chippendales was recruited to tour the US. In 1991 the London branch of Chippendales opened at the Shaw Theatre and went on to tour the UK. Almost all of the shows sold out, so another group with the Chippendales name had to be formed. Today screaming, fainting

fans greet the two sets of Chippendales in Britain and much of Europe. The last time they were here was in 1994. Twentysomething actress and singer Anat Geva says of that show: "It was amazing. Absolutely amazing. The men are stunning, the whole show is a phenomenon. It is not like just a strip show, it's all very aesthetic and very professional. I enjoyed myself immensely." "The place was filled with screaming and clapping women, and sometimes the dancers came down to the audience and took some of the women on stage. That is really something, because part of you wants to be taken on stage and part of you thinks about how embarrassing it is. They do some pretty personal things to the women on stage – mainly dancing, but they do other sorts of stuff." The reason they look so professional may have something to do with the fact that all of the dancers trained in dance classes, and Broadway directors and choreographers are brought in to work with them. Anthony Van Laast (who has directed *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, by Andrew Lloyd Webber) directed the London Chippendales in 1992. The '94/95 show *New Experience*

was created by the choreographers who worked with Madonna on *Girlie Show*, as well as many other large rock productions. In 1997, Van Laast was back to work with the boys on a new show that introduced dance numbers loosely based on the likes of *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Baywatch* and *The Wild Ones*. "The Chippendales are really something," says 27-year-old Marci Rosenthal, who saw them perform in the US. "I went to see them with a bunch of friends before one of them got married, and they took her on stage. It was really cool. They are all absolutely gorgeous. Especially the one on the motorcycle." The one on the motorcycle – a bigger prop than the usual whips and chains – is Kyle Brenner. He is a 27-year-old hunk with long dark curly hair, blue eyes, a sweet boyish smile, and a body to die for. "I remember when I started with the Chippendales," says Brenner. "My friends told me to send them a photo and about a week later they called me up for an audition. I wasn't doing anything even close to it at the time, I was working at a hospital in Indiana as an operating-room nurse." Brenner was in the process of obtaining a nursing degree after

serving in the American army as a medic when he was whisked away to the big stage. "I had always dreamed of being a paramedic in the fire department, or a registered nurse," says Brenner, "but I was getting bored with the hospital anyway, since I had been there already for seven years. I knew that this was totally in the opposite direction, and that it would be good for me." That's quite a switch. "Not everyone can do this sort of job for very long for many reasons," he says. "But it is a very demanding schedule, and the job takes you away from home, family and friends. You have to want to be on the road." Brenner has been on that road for the last three years, having traveled all over Europe, including countries which used to be behind the Iron Curtain. "I've been to 34 countries already, and so far I really like it here. It's my first time in this country and I've really been looking forward to this," he says. Besides the usual currency and language problems found while traveling, one of the biggest problems that a Chippendale may run into is the many female fans running after them, especially after performances. "Sometimes it can get a little thick," Brenner admits, "but that's

what's supposed to happen. I mean, if we don't generate that kind of excitement, then we didn't do our job." "They [the female fans] don't really jump all over us, but there is a time at the end of the show when they can take a photo with us. They can select a group of two [of the Chippendales] and take a photo. We try to limit the grabbing of certain parts of our bodies." Are there other opportunities for fans to meet their heroes? "Sometimes we'll [give out] a note at the end of the show as to where we are going to be, like what club we are going to, or what hotel we're staying at," he says. Just who is admitted to these private get-togethers with the boys varies. "It all depends on where we're going and how many people can go. Usually the hotel is pretty restricted, but it's fun, you know seeing them come up with a calendar to be signed and stuff like that, that's a good thing," Brenner says. "A very good thing." The Chippendales will be giving three performances, all starting at 9 p.m.: Saturday at Tel Aviv's Hangar 11, with table seating; Monday at the Ben-Gurion University Sports Center in Beersheba; and on Wednesday at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim. Ticket prices include wine.

Giora's Restaurant, 10 King David Street, 9-11. 624-1015.

And Points Beyond

Thursday night is the Festival of Wine and Food in the Golan Heights. Called "Golan Vintage," this hedonistic bacchanalian bash includes a gala festive meal prepared by international and Israeli chefs. It is a pricey pleasure though: the whole event costs \$345. If you head out just for the day, the damage is \$100. This is intended to be the start of a new Golan tradition. Haifa tonight is the scene of a Yiddish revival. *Good Yom Tov Yiddish*, a humorous play incorporating 50 years of Yiddish Theater in Israel, is performed by the indomitable Yiddishpiel. Fear not if you're a bit rusty on the *mamaloshen*: the theater kindly offers simultaneous translation. 8 at the Haifa Theater. (04) 862-0670.

Jerusalem

Tonight witness a Geshner favorite as the (mostly) Russian troupe mounts Fyodor Dostoyevsky. The passionate Yevgeny Arie directs *The Idiot*, at the Jerusalem Theater, 9 p.m. Feeling nostalgic for the old country? American Folk and Country Music is on tonight, with Josh Goodman and Bruce Brill. All this to be found at

Company performs its now-classic *Mabul* ("Flood"), which was considered its best work ever when it first appeared. At the Suzanne Dellal Center in Neveh Tzedek, (03) 510-5656. Don't despair if you can't make it: they perform again on Saturday night, at 9. Also Friday, you can still catch Myumana as they bang on everything and the kitchen sink (sorry, no drums). At Tzavta, 11:30 p.m. Tired but devoted fans can see them Saturday night as well, at 9:30. And if that isn't enough variety, the Fringe theater is showing one of its best plays to date, a one-man version of *Missing Kissinger*, based on the book by Edgar Keret. The stream-of-consciousness stories strike almost painfully close to home, paired with incessant humor as an intelligent salute. Masterfully acted by Uri Hochman. *Kissinger* plays at the Zionist Organization House at 10

p.m. on Friday. On Saturday night Hochman turns director at a comic theater show in Tzavta 2. Ami Smolarchik stars in the performance, called *Smolarchik*. Starts at 10. Head downtown to Logos for Saturday night's hot music scene: Amir Lev has a veritable orchestra assembled for his show, entitled *Once in a Lifetime*. Beginning at 10. Gentlemen, beware! Your lady friends may not be available for any of these above-mentioned respectable Saturday night activities. Chippendales invites fun-loving city girls to a ladies-only show (see feature above) at Hangar 11 at the Tel Aviv port. 9 p.m. Ending the weekend is the Batsheva Ensemble's newest *Zechacha*. Supposedly a children's show, it is both witty and mesmerizing. Bring your dancing shoes and unleash your exhibitionist side! Or simply sit and gape

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Rest and recuperate from a scorcher of a week with the "All Star" ensemble's cool jazz at Zahala Apropos. Starting at 10:30 tonight. When your energy comes back, gear up for two days of off-beat events. Friday night features music and dance at various venues: Batsheva Dance

See and be Scene

By SONIE LEMOR

Amid the growing popularity of all-in-one type hangouts, Scene is a refreshing change. Open now for three months, the dance bar Scene has taken Tel Aviv nightlife to new heights. There is no cover charge, and once inside you can either sit at the bar or at a table, or strut your stuff to the hip house and dance music. The bar, located in a busy area of Allenby surrounded by many other pubs and cafes, is only a five-minute walk from the fashionable Sheinkin Strip. The entire facade just screams out: "I am a very exclusive joint!" Scene is situated on a corner and its entrance is blocked off by red velvet ropes and a bouncer who looks as if he stepped off the front page of *GO*. To his left is the selector, a girl who scrutinizes each hopeful partygoer as if through a magnifying glass. If you are lucky enough to gain entry, you cross through the tinted glass-door threshold and into the house of fun. The interior decor looks as if it was imported "as is" straight from New York City. Along a very high ceiling, exquisite light fixtures shape an arch, under which a state-of-the-art bar seats an over-25 crowd. To the left of the entrance is a seating area with module-type servers, art-deco tables and plush chairs. From this vantage point one may watch the local celebrities and beautiful people come in and say their hellos. Beyond the bar is a wooden dance floor and several orange and red sofas to chill out on and take a break from the partying. On any weekend one can catch a glimpse of many a famous face, such as that of actor and model Yair Lotan. According to Lotan, Scene is one of his favorite places to hang out. Scene owner Yair Shaham, who looks distinctly like the lead singer of the pop band Jarhead, says that dance bars have a much better chance of succeeding than clubs or pubs because the concept is more interesting and intimate. "People have had enough of clubs because they think that they're too big and you can't communicate," says Shaham. "In a club you lose yourself." In Scene, you just lose the sense of time. On Sunday, which is a weak night for the party circuit, Scene was packed to the hilt until at least 3 a.m. Open seven days a week from 8:30 p.m. until at least 3 a.m., Scene is a hot spot that should not be missed.

Scene, 56 Allenby Street, Tel Aviv

Movies on my mind

Countertenor David De'or talks about his favorite films

If the countertenor voice has been compared to that of Angels, then David De'or was born into the role. Behind the black-clad veneer of a slick pop star – complete with black hair and eyes – the 32-year-old singer speaks with velvet softness, aches at the thought of abused animals, and deplores political and personal violence. His stunning voice reveals these sensitivities through its soaring range, the countertenor notes – as high as a female singer's voice – that have made him famous. "I always knew about my vocal capacity, and I always knew that I would be a musician," he says. "When I listen to music, it's always the human voice that I find most compelling."

So compelling, in fact, that De'or refused to be content with his ability to sing high notes. Instead, his classical training at the Rubin Academy of Music has revealed four vocal ranges, from the baritone upward. This vocal phenomenon caught the attention of Israeli listeners, who snapped up his first three albums, and flock to his performances with groups as diverse as the Ra'anana Symphonette and Habreia Hatviv. Nothing has been lost on the international community, either. De'or has performed on invitation with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, at the Israeli embassies at the Vatican and in Washington, in Turkey, Albania and Japan; he has appeared with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, and performed at the World Peace Conference in Rome in 1997.

Yet he remains personable and gentle, busy with performances many nights, while making time for his two-year-old daughter and his wife, "mostly late at night." He even returns phone calls conscientiously, preferring to be interviewed at 11:30 p.m., after a show. And lest he should find some extra time, he fills it with painting (his work can be seen throughout the hallways of his home, guarded by three dogs), reading, and intensive movie-viewing. The following are his favorite films.

1. Birdy (Alan Parker, 1984)

"There was a certain period when I watched this film every day, I was a bit crazy. I used to dream that I could fly, that I was a bird, and that's why this story spoke to me; it is a story of the relationship between bird and man."

2. The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and her Lover (Peter Greenaway, 1992)

"Everything was wonderful in this film: the photography and the lighting were terrific – especially those sudden changes of lighting – the soundtrack, the weirdness of the story and the creativity together



were total. The abuse was brutal, I loved the humanity, and it showed brilliantly the power of anger and money. "There isn't a drop of shmalzt found in this film. The song, the aria sung by the boy is so strong; the music is terrific in my opinion."

3. The Sheltering Sky (Bernardo Bertolucci, 1990)

"I loved this film for Bertolucci's aesthetic sensibility – I love Bertolucci in general – and again the photography is great. The subject matter that he deals with in this film is so meaningful. The stories have an element of something outside of normal life, they are esoteric, half-mystic and foggy, and there is much that is hidden. This film was just beautiful."

4. Pulp Fiction (Quentin Tarantino, 1994)

"This is the movie of the future! This is the prime example of how we should make action movies in the future. Everything in it was new and different, the jumps in chronology, and the flash changes in scenery. Of course the acting was great – with energy abounding. All the elements of drama were here, with not a bit of shmalzt and no kitsch. For a month I walked around thinking about this movie. Everything is sharp and it hurts until you just want to scream. Not that I like disgusting things, but this is paradoxical: it gives an impression that isn't really realistic but still it forces you to think of reality. Somehow it seemed logical to me."

5. Sh'hur (Shmuel Hasfari, 1994)

"I don't usually like Israeli movies, they usually speak to me less. But something about this story appealed to me. Hana Azoulay Hasfari, especially, was fantastic. I relate well to the setting of the developmental towns, through my friends and family, just growing up in Israel. But I really loved the sense – again – of the half-mystical, half-imaginary scenarios, the hazy and hidden worlds." – Dahlia Scheindlin

Weekender Food & Drink



Separation anxiety

Set those little yellow kernels free and watch them — and your spirits — soar. By Rod Davis and Elizabeth Talliaferro

Sometimes we must shake up the ordinary contexts of our lives. Rethink our traditions. At the bare minimum, we can find other ways to play with our food. If no other behavior modifications occur to you as the new year approaches, how about altering your approach to the way you eat corn? It's out there everywhere — tasseled green stalks in the fields and ears in bins in the corner market and grocery. You'll buy it, shuck it, boil it, take it between your hands, and chomp away with the abandon of a sixth-grader eating fried chicken at a school picnic. Very nice. I do it myself. Or did. Until something happened. Until I became a corn radical.

Sure, you can eat corn on the cob. But did you ever wonder how the kernels felt about that? Did you ever consider that they had spent their entire lives in a protective shuck, uncomplaining? Did you think they never yearned for a moment of freedom, a chance to get out and do, each of them, his or her own thing?

Can a kernel of corn be so far distant from a butterfly breaking free of the chrysalis? Is the essence of corn to be torn from the cob and become wedged inside expensive dental work? To go through the mass-production conveyor belts of commercial canners and wind up, at best, little mounds of alienation "in natural juices" next to the mashed potatoes? At worst, cow chow?

Not if I have anything to do with it. As renowned 20th-century philosopher and musician Sting told us, "If you love somebody, set them free."

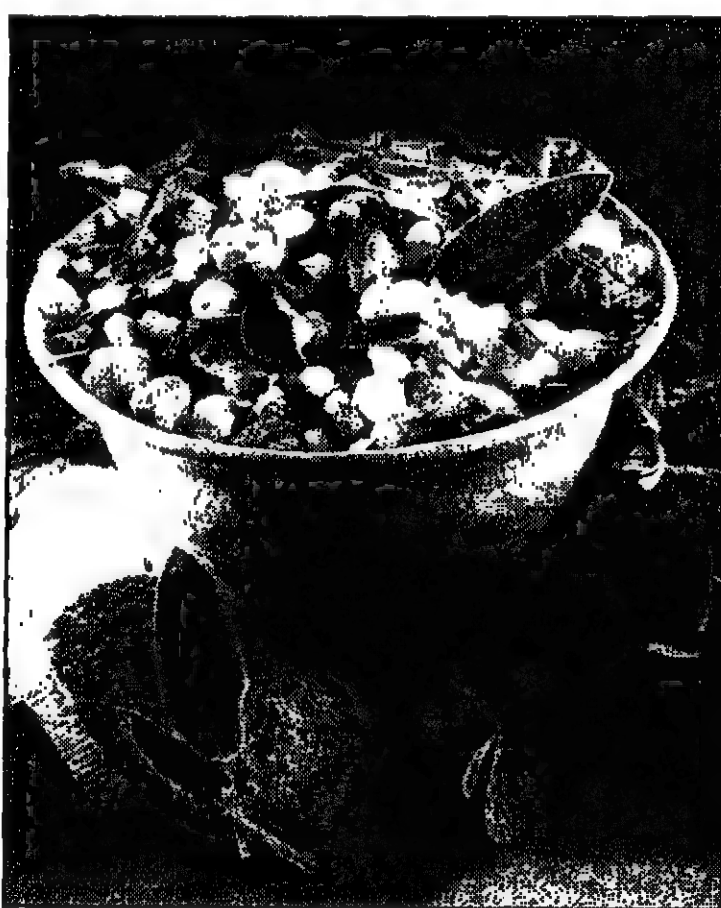
Do this with corn. Cut loose the kernels. Get them off the cob. You can do all manner of fresh cooking that way, but that's not my point. You're not doing it for you. You're doing it for the corn.

You'd do it for a grape, wouldn't you? For a banana? Of course. And fat chance either of them plays a bigger role in your daily life. Get the corn off the cob! You will not traumatize the kernels, but begin the first day of the rest of their little yellow lives.

And must I dwell on the Hobbesian nature of those humble existences? Corn is surely the most regimented of all vegetables: born in the rank and file, locked shoulder-to-shoulder, and anchored firmly into the mother ship.

Released from its authoritarian confines, corn begins the personal adventure that is surely the inherent right of all living entities. Even if a small moment of panic accompanies the rush of liberation, each free-form kernel can find a path to a destiny beyond that of the common pack.

In sum: When you look at the corn you've scraped from the cob, see a plate not of nibblers, but of possibilities. In the denuded cob witness not emptiness, but fulfillment. Do with the kernels as you



will — or as we will in these recipes. Either way, you've listened to the silent yearnings born of thankless obedience.

ROASTED-CORN SALAD

3 cups fresh corn kernels (about 6 ears)
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil, divided
cooking spray
2 Tbsp. white balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1 cup chopped seeded tomato
1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
1/2 cup chopped green onions

Preheat oven to 220°. Combine corn and 1 tsp. oil in a jelly-roll pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 220° for 20 minutes or until browned, stirring occasionally.

Combine 2 tsp. oil, vinegar, mustard, salt, and black pepper in a medium-sized bowl; add corn mixture, stirring well. Stir in

tomato, bell pepper and onions. Serve warm or at room temperature. (Serves 4.)

TUSCAN BREAD SALAD WITH CORN

Summer vegetables at their peak and crisp garlic croutons are tossed together with a sweet-corn vinaigrette to create this traditional bread salad. Serve immediately, while the croutons are still crisp.

1 cup fresh corn kernels (about 2 ears)
1/2 cup water
2 cups Italian bread, cut in 2.5-cm. cubes
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
2 Tbsp. water
2 Tbsp. mango chutney
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
1 cup chopped seeded peeled cucumber
1 cup chopped seeded tomato



1/2 cup chopped green onions
1/2 cup chopped yellow bell pepper

Combine corn and 1/2 cup water in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes or until the corn is tender. Drain well.

Preheat broiler. Combine bread cubes and garlic in a medium-sized bowl; toss well to coat. Arrange bread cubes on a jelly-roll pan and broil 5 minutes or until lightly browned, stirring once.

Combine vinegar and next 5 ingredients (vinegar through black pepper) in a large bowl. Add corn and remaining ingredients. Add bread cubes and toss gently. Serve immediately. (Serves 6.)

WEST INDIES CORN AND CHICKEN

6 ears shucked corn
2 tsp. dried thyme
2 tsp. coriander seeds, crushed
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. dried grated orange peel
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
6 skinned, boned chicken thighs
1 1/2 Tbsp. oil
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
1/4 cup chopped celery
1 Tbsp. chopped seeded jalapeno pepper
1 cup water
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
450 gr. can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 cup uncooked rice
1 tsp. sesame seeds

Cut off tops of corn kernels; scrape corn milk and remaining pulp from cobs using the dull side of a knife blade.

Prepare spice mixture: Combine thyme and next 7 ingredients (thyme through cumin); divide spice mixture in half. Coat chicken with half of spice mixture.

Heat oil in a large skillet, add chicken and cook over high heat 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Remove chicken.

Add onion, bell pepper, celery, jalapeno, and remaining spice mixture to skillet; saute 8 minutes or until lightly browned.

Add water to pan; scrape skillet to loosen browned bits. Add corn and corn milk. Cook 5 minutes over medium-high heat; stir frequently.

Add broth, beans and chicken to skillet, bring to a boil. Gently stir in rice. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. Cover, reduce heat. Simmer 20 minutes. Remove from heat; let stand 5 minutes. (Serves 6.)

CREAMED SALMON WITH FRESH CORN AND DILL
In this recipe, the milk is infused with onion for extra flavor. However, you can skip this step to save time.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

Sunflower-seed cookies (fair)
One day I'd like to look at an Osem product and really know what I'm getting. They do tell you what you're not getting: no preservatives (seldom found in cookies of this sort); no food colorings (seldom found in cookies of this sort); and no cholesterol (which, if it were in the cookies, might be a sign they contain real butter or eggs). Still, we don't know what hydrogenated fats are used and are left to guess about the unidentified aromatic and flavoring materials.

Osem's new sunflower-seed cookies aren't bad, but they do leave a greasy aftertaste. Other members of the series, which are certified kosher by Badatz, are: chocolate chocolate chips, nut cookies, lemon cookies and chocolate chip cookies. A 250-gr. package sells for NIS 7.25.

Belgian butter cookies (excellent)

Frequent readers of this column know that I never seem to go for commercial cookies, but I've changed my tune. The new Lotus Gallettes Bretonnes and Palets Butter Biscuits are just to die for. They are delicious cook-

ies made with natural ingredients: wheat, butter, sugar, real eggs, salt, non-fat dry milk and leavening. The Gallettes Bretonnes are crispier (I like them better), but friends loved the thicker Palets (especially as a dessert served with creme fraiche and fruit). The cookies have the hechsher of the Chief Rabbinate.

I believe it's better to enjoy fewer quality cookies than many gross ones. Both the butter cookies are sold in 150-gr. packages and cost NIS 9.18. They are worth every penny.

We also tried another product made by the same manufacturer: six-grain cookies made with millet, wheat, barley, sorghum, oatmeal and rye. They're also delicious, though they lack the delicacy of the butter ones. They'd be great as chewy biscuits for little ones. A 250-gr. package costs NIS 8.60.

For creme fraiche that tastes like the kind of sour cream they serve in paradise, mix 1 container fresh sweet cream (not long-life) with 1 Tbsp. buttermilk. Cover and let stand at room temperature for at least 6 hours or overnight (just till the mixture looks thick). Place in the refrigerator, where it will get even firmer.

White tuna (delicious)

If you grew up in America, you probably grew up eating white tuna. But in Israel, most of us have gotten used to chunk light tuna, which according to my mother is a step down. Now Simon Importers is offering

kosher albacore white tuna (a prime tuna that's drier than regular tuna) manufactured by Sofika, which has factories in the Seychelles Islands, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Dakar and France. 160 gr. sells for NIS 7.50.

Honey cake (not bad)

I've never been a honey-cake lover, so I had to pass this Elite cake on to the folks for a tasting. They told me, "It doesn't have that homemade taste, but it's not bad." The only problem is that it doesn't cut well and easily breaks up into crumbs. The cake contains almonds and walnuts and is certified kosher by Badatz. 450 gr. sells for NIS 12.45.

Wrigley's sugarless gum (very good)

I've never had much of a desire to chew gum. If you're like me to chew gum, however, the new Wrigley's flavors are for you. The classic Spearmint, Doublemint and Juicy Fruit flavors are now sold sugarless, with a new formula that really does make the flavor last a lot longer than usual.

Juicy Fruit and Spearmint gums were first developed in 1893 by Mr. Wrigley himself. The Doublemint flavor was added in 1914. Interestingly enough, 86% of the gum sold in Israel is sugarless, with Orbit leading the way. These new Wrigley's gums are even better than Orbit. NIS 1.40 per packet and NIS 5.49 for a family size package of 4 packets.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

My dad's coming for the holidays and he'd like flosan tzimmes, like his mom made. Other than cooking potatoes and prunes, what do I do?

— Lois Green, Tel Aviv

Here is Claudia Roden's recipe for flosan tzimmes, as it appeared in her book *Jewish Food*.

FLOMAN TZIMMES
Meat and potato stew with prunes

1 kg. slightly fat beef brisket or flank
3 Tbsp. chicken fat or oil
1 1/2 large onions, coarsely chopped
salt and pepper
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. allspice
a good pinch of nutmeg
1 kg. new potatoes

500 gr. pitted prunes
2 Tbsp. sugar or to taste

In a heavy pan over medium heat, turn the meat in the fat or oil to brown it all over. Then remove it and fry the onions gently till soft. Return the meat to the pan and cover with water.

Season meat with salt and pepper, add cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Add potatoes, prunes, sugar and more water to cover and simmer 45 minutes. You may want to add black pepper to balance the sweetness. There should be a lot of liquid. Serve hot. (Serves 4-6.)

What are the additives and sugar content in Gamadim brand yogurt? This yogurt tastes like it's full of chemicals and sugar, and yet it's marketed specifically for children. (I even see babies eating it.) What is the healthiest all-around yogurt sold in Israel (measuring fat, calories, sugar, additives, etc.)?

— Jessica Kaz, Jerusalem

Gamadim is not a yogurt product; it is made of white cheese and fruit. I checked the Gamadim label, which you could have done too, and artificial coloring and flavoring

agents are not included in the list of ingredients. The list does, however, include sugar. While the exact amount of sugar is not disclosed, you can get the general idea from where it appears on the list of ingredients. Ingredients must be listed, by law, in descending order of the amounts that are used.

While it does not say on the label that Gamadim contain artificial flavoring and aromatic materials, you can never know if the milk was beefed up with added extracts in the production process. If you have any doubt, take white cheese and mix in honey, jam or mashed fruit.

The healthiest yogurts are the low-fat plain ones (I personally cannot stand yogurt with less than 3% fat) with live cultures, like Strauss's Bio Pro or Tnuva's LGG.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

South African wines

By NOGA YAMPOLESKY

There will be an influx of new South African wines to Israel over the next few months; the first batch already is available in local stores. South Africa generally is referred to as one of the New World regions of wine production, but wine culture has existed in the region since the arrival of French Huguenots towards the end of the 17th century. Stellenbosch, where the Alto winery (established in 1679) is located, is South Africa's second oldest town.

The wines coming to Israel from South Africa are varied but, by and large, accomplished and well worth trying. The exuberant meat-eating predilections of many of my South African friends and the full-bodied, flavorful character of many of these wines lead me to suspect the wines may have been made with the meat-and-wine combination in mind.

Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 1991: This is a deep red, complex and full-bodied wine that also produces only in years when the harvest is considered to be outstanding. This cabernet sauvignon is a wine that develops beautifully on the palate, with hints of cherries, sage and blackberries. It is weighty enough to be a good match for the most substantial meals, including steak, lamb and osso buco. Recommended price: NIS 110.

Alto Estate Alto Rooie 1991: Blended from shiraz, cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon and merlot grapes, this is full-flavored wine has hints of forest berries, plums and vanilla. Medium-bodied and

refreshing, it is an ideal accompaniment to meat dishes, tuna steaks, and pasta with tomato sauce. Recommended price: NIS 98.

Drosty African Sky Chardonnay 1996: This is a deep purple wine, is somewhat reminiscent of Beaujolais and is especially appealing when slightly chilled. This wine, made from cabernet sauvignon, merlot, shiraz, and other grapes, is a great accompaniment to meat dishes, such as lamb chops and goulash. No price stated, but it is sold for NIS 57 in Jerusalem wine shops.

Drosty Two Oceans Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 1997: Another wine to be drunk young, slightly chilled, this bright purple wine has a characteristic forest berry and slightly tart qualities of a cabernet sauvignon. Recommended price: NIS 42.

Theuniskraal Semillon Chardonnay 1996: This delightful, fruity wine is produced using small portions of chardonnay and semillon grapes. It is a dry, medium-bodied wine with hints of citrus blossoms and a slightly herbaceous character. Ideal as an accompaniment for seafood, chicken dishes or pasta. Recommended price: NIS 53.

Fleur du Cap Chardonnay 1996: This is a full-bodied wine which should be drunk young, slightly chilled. It is a dry, medium-bodied wine with hints of citrus blossoms and a slightly herbaceous character. Ideal as an accompaniment for seafood, chicken dishes or pasta. Recommended price: NIS 53.

350 gr. salmon fillet (about 2.5 cm. thick)

1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
cooking spray
4 ears shucked corn
1 cup milk, divided
2 onion slices, 1 cm. thick
4 tsp. flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. white pepper
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried dill
8 slices French bread, toasted

Prepare grill or broiler. Sprinkle both sides of the salmon fillet with

black pepper. Place the salmon fillet on a grill rack or broiler pan coated with cooking spray and grill the salmon for 5 minutes on each side or until the fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Flake the salmon.

Cut off the tops of the corn kernels and scrape the corn milk and remaining pulp from the cobs using the dull side of a knife blade. Set the corn kernels and corn milk aside.

Combine 1/4 cup milk and onion slices in a large saucepan. Bring the milk mixture just to a boil over medium heat; cover, reduce heat

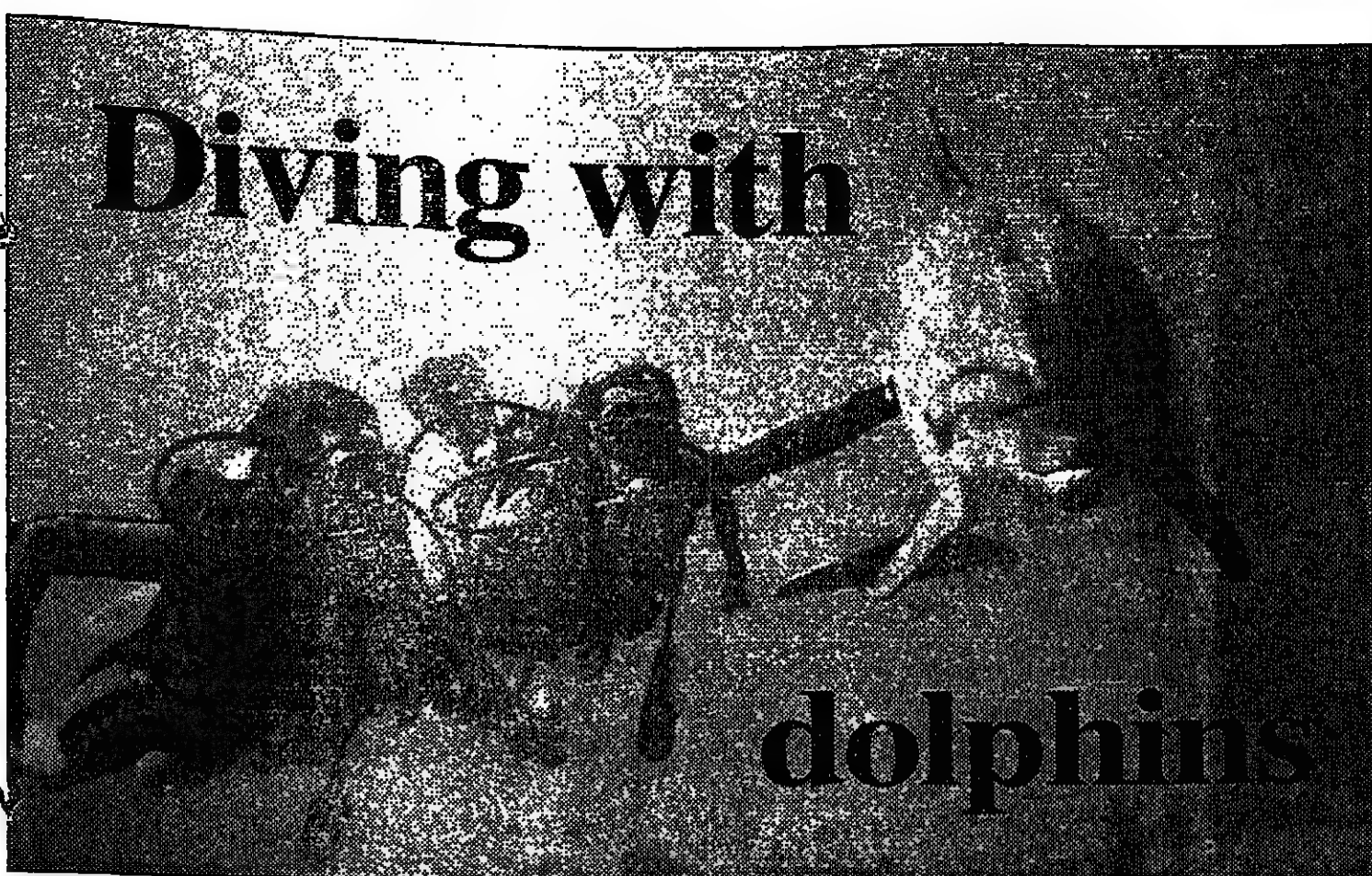
and simmer 5 minutes. Discard the onion.

Add the corn and corn milk to pan and cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently.

Combine the flour and 1/4 cup milk in a small bowl and stir well with a whisk. Add flour mixture, salt and white pepper to corn mixture in pan and stir well. Cook 7 minutes or until thick, stirring constantly.

Remove mixture from heat and gently stir in salmon and dill. Serve over toasted bread slices. (Serves 4.)

(Creators Syndicate, Inc.)



As we made our way across the fenced-off sea pool, Sindy the dolphin patriarch followed gracefully, gliding through the water and looking as if he was almost laughing at our ridiculous wet suits and scuba masks.

By RUTH MARKS

As I came face-to-face with the large, smiling dolphin it occurred to me that for the past half-an-hour, I'd completely forgotten that my main intention was to play with these lovable animals.

I arrived at Eilat's Dolphin Reef eager for this unique experience and was introduced to Billie, my personal instructor. I listened anxiously as she explained basic scuba diving skills, and then became preoccupied with learning how to balance and stay afloat with a heavy metal air tank strapped to my back.

The rest happened so fast - Billie gave me the standard diver's 'okay' signal, I responded, and we were off. We swam in a sea of bubbles, deeper and deeper into this new, exciting underwater world. We passed through a small gate and out into the blue ocean. All around colorful schools of small fish hurried about on their daily business, paying us little attention. Dimly, from a distance, I could hear the high-pitched cooing call of the dolphins.

Suddenly, as if by magic, one of the creatures appeared.

The dolphin moved closer, inquisitively, as if he was trying to recognize the guests that had stopped by. He circled us, beckon-

ing us to play with him. He moved away, returned, then swam directly beneath us, twisting over onto his back and begging us to scratch and playfully caress his enormous, smooth stomach.

This dolphin, I later discovered, was named Sindy. Originally thought to be female, Sindy is actually the patriarch of the Dolphin Reef dolphin family.

As we made our way across the fenced-off sea pool, Sindy followed gracefully, gliding through the water and looking as if he was almost laughing at our ridiculous wet suits and scuba masks. Acting more playful than a young child despite his ripe old age of 25, Sindy seemed as tame as any house pet that enjoys a lot of attention.

Our trio was soon joined by Nana, one of the younger dolphins. She clearly seemed jealous that Sindy was receiving all the attention, and she moved in close, almost like she was attempting to give us a hug.

As we swam down deeper to the six-meter limit allowed for this type of dive, my instructor signaled me to "equalize" - hold my nose and push the pressure out of my ears. As we got closer to the sandy sea bed, I looked up to see Nana chasing away a small fish that had perhaps strayed by mistake into dolphin territory. Almost too soon, we were head-

ing back through the gate toward the beach. Like part of a human school of fish, each diver swam up to the surface hand-in-hand with his or her personal instructor and stumbled to stand upright.

When we emerged from the water, we were struck by the boiling midday sun, and the tank which had felt so light underwater resumed its full weight. Treading carefully, we headed reluctantly toward Eilat's sandy shore.

Billie began to fill me in on some gossip about my new-found friends. Sindy, she told me, was her special friend, whom she visits perhaps seven times a day. She said once Sindy got angry and refused to speak to her for over a week! Dolphins have human-like feelings and emotions, Billie explained.

There is something extremely calming and peaceful about swimming with these beautiful creatures. Meeting Sindy and his family was undoubtedly the highlight of my visit to the popular Scuba Diving Center at Eilat's Dolphin Reef. But it's not the only option available.

The less adventurous can take the passive approach by standing at a distance on the bamboo watchtower which stretches out into the water. You can't see the dolphins up close this way, but you are likely to catch a glimpse of them as they leap out of the

water to catch food during one of the four daily feedings.

You can also choose to swim with them using a snorkel, but this means that you'll need to stay close to the surface, which makes following them around more difficult.

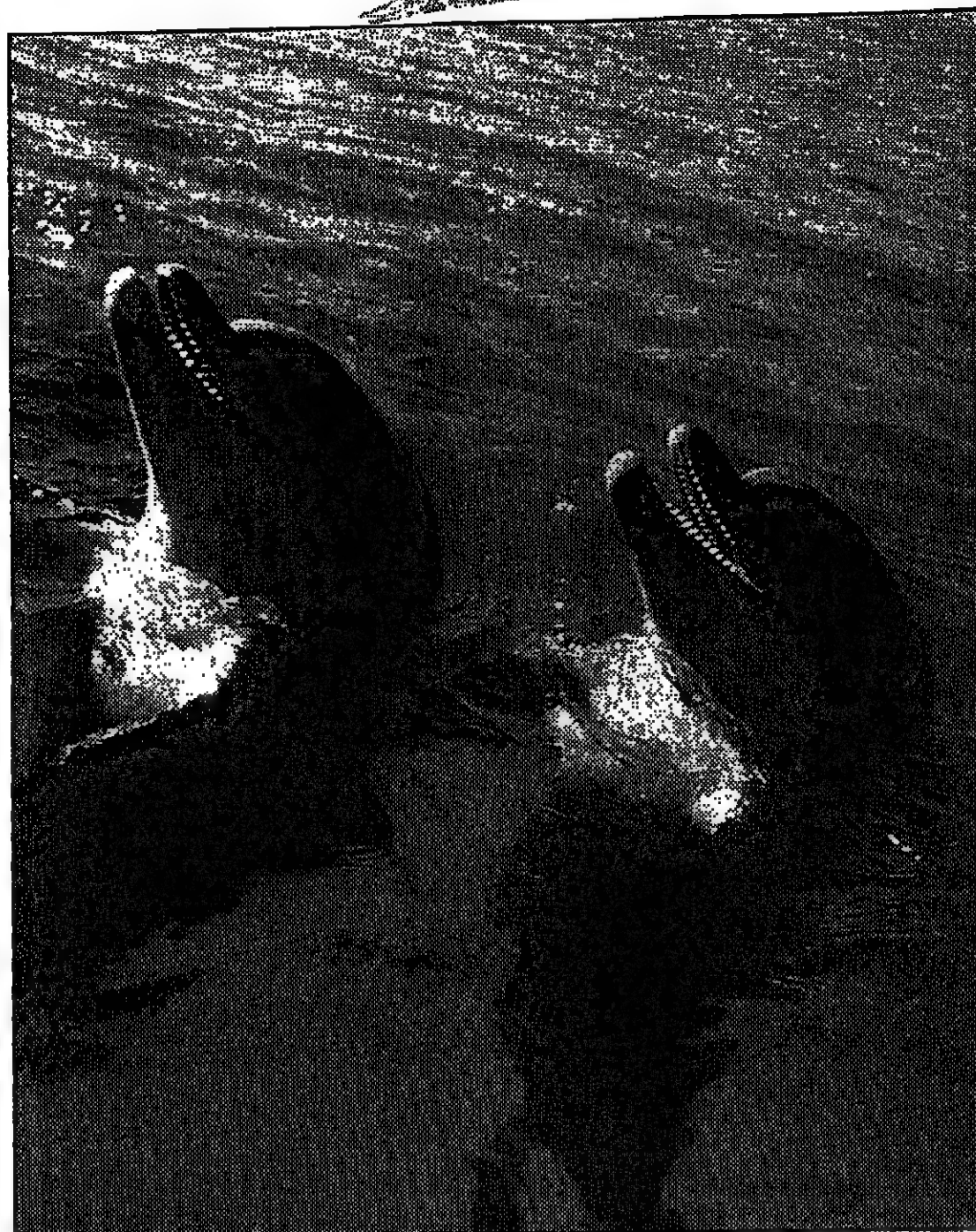
For a more up-close-and-personal experience, taking the plunge with scuba diving gear is a guaranteed way to enter the dolphins' world and get to play in a more personal way with these cute, friendly mammals.

The center also offers a whole range of diving courses, advanced dives, equipment rentals and even an all-inclusive scuba diving trip to the coral reef further down the coast in Sinai.

In the center's compound there is a café and a well-kept private beach, which is an ideal place to relax after a tiring day at sea.

The Eilat Dolphin Reef is on the Eilat-Taba road and is open 7 days a week. Entrance to the beach is NIS 32 per adult and NIS 25 per child. Snorkeling costs NIS 180 per adult and NIS 25 per child. Scuba diving costs NIS 217 for an adult.

Weekender Travel



There is something extremely calming and peaceful about an underwater adventure with these beautiful creatures.

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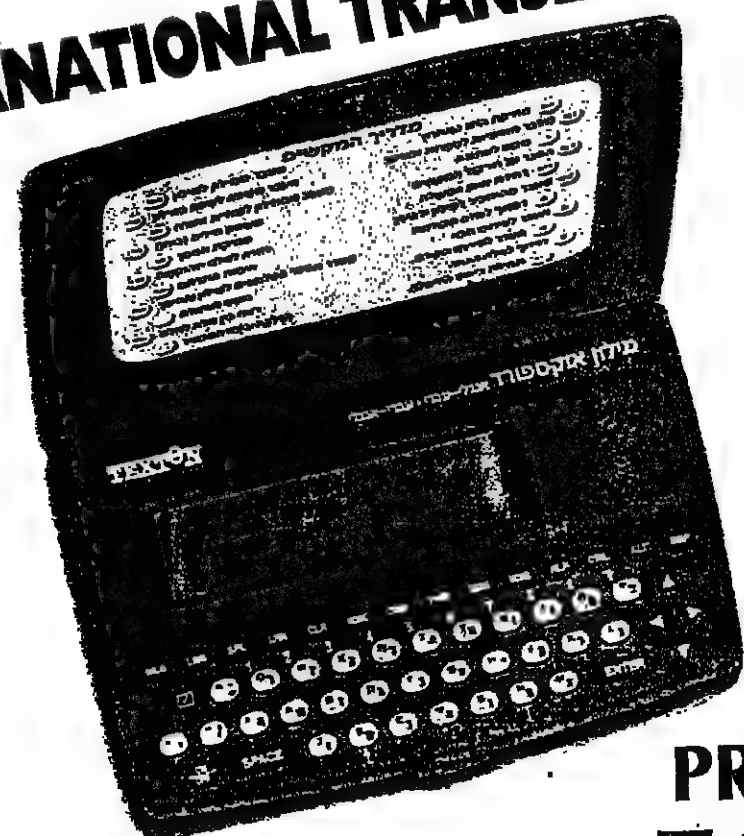
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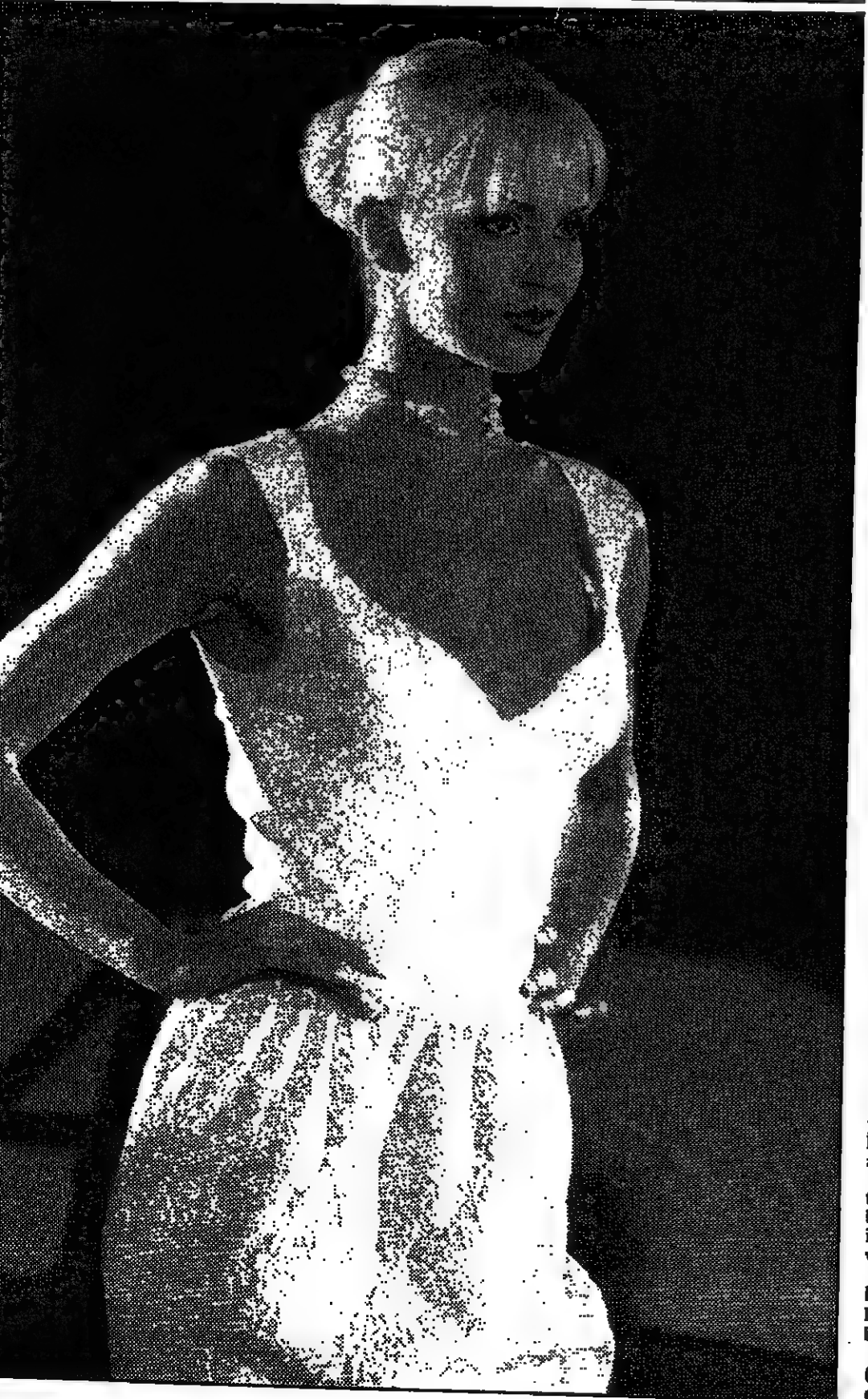
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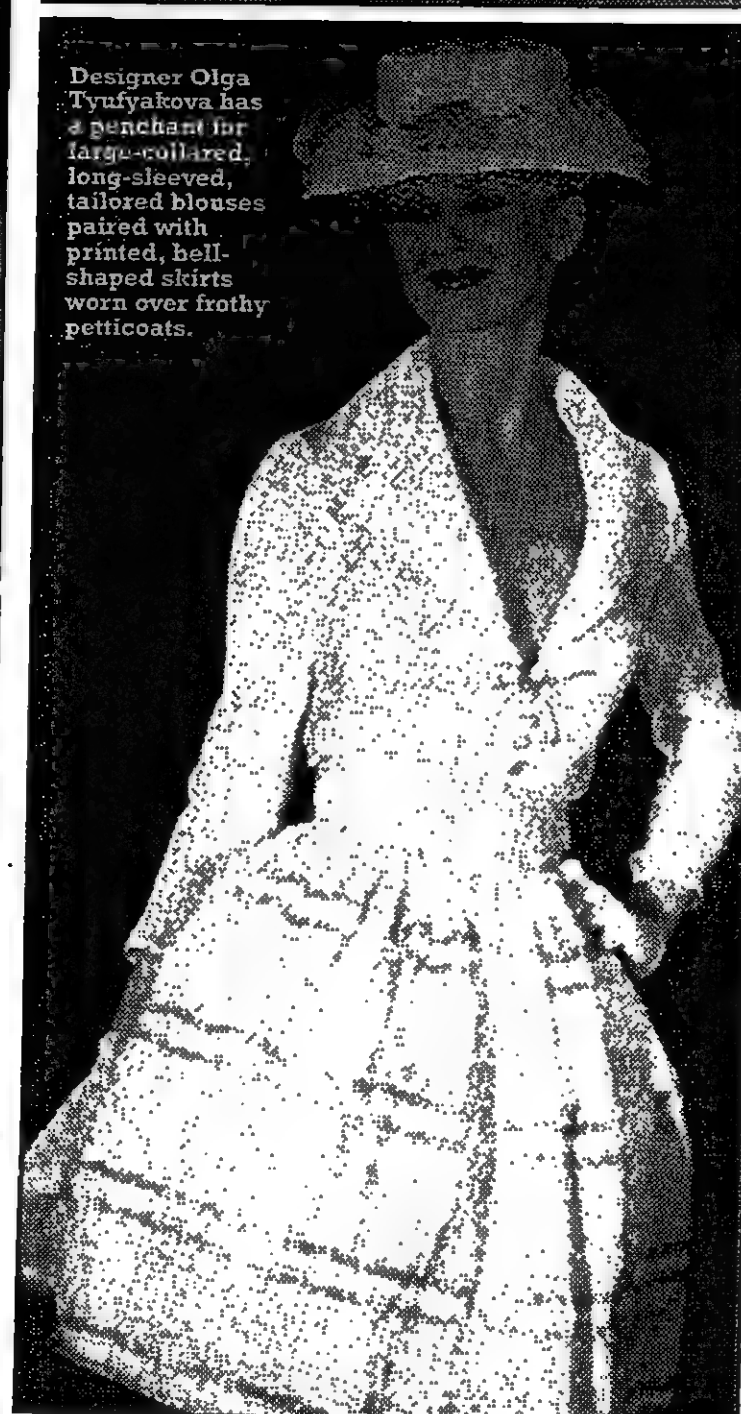
Floral-patterned lace features prominently in the Olga and Simonov collection, as in this pastel, beaded lace bodice and this see-through micro-mini (right).



Kiev couture



Designer Olga Tyufyakova has a penchant for large-collared, long-sleeved, tailored blouses paired with printed, bell-shaped skirts worn over frothy petticoats.



When Ukraine, once a republic of the former Soviet Union, achieved its independence in 1992, a whole lot of things changed — one of the most obvious being fashion.

Not that there hadn't been an earlier glimmer of Western influence in Ukrainian dress. But with the nation's independence, Ukrainians with enough money have more freedom to follow overseas fashion trends. And at home, the Olga and Simonov fashion house was founded.

At the Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations last week, Israelis had an opportunity to see what the affluent ladies of Kiev are wearing. Head designer Olga Tyufyakova arrived with a bevy of models and clothes which varied from the ultra-demure to the provocatively outrageous.

Most of the models balanced precariously on very high, spike-heeled, pointed shoes that looked as if they'd come straight out of a 1960s Hollywood movie. In fact, these types of shoes are coming back into vogue, and we'll be seeing them on a lot of Tel Aviv runways over the next few months.

Tyufyakova has a penchant for large-collared, long-sleeved, tailored blouses paired with printed, bell-shaped skirts worn over

frothy petticoats. She also likes to display a lot of cleavage, and she's rather disdainful of bras. The latter trait is most noticeable in her transparent dresses and blouses.

Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

Floral-patterned lace also featured prominently in both micro-minis and long, elegant column dresses. Occasionally the lace was multi-colored, which was most effective when it appeared in soft pastel hues.

Some of the citrus-toned fabrics, especially the brocades which were used to full magnificence in tailored suits, were really gorgeous, so much so that it was a shame that they were shown with fabrics of lesser quality. It made them look cheap.

There's no denying that Tyufyakova is a talented designer, albeit a little prone to kitsch. A Yiddish word which best describes her less successful efforts is *ongepashtkes*.

Nonetheless, the overall effect was one of lighthearted glamour, which is probably why Olga and Simonov works so closely with Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to show its collection to visiting foreign delegations and appreciative audiences abroad.

(Left) Typical of Tyufyakova, this citrus-hued, brocade dress displays a good deal of cleavage.

Bridge Mixed pairs are often mixed-up

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

North (McCallum)
♠ A 9
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ K 7 5 3
♣ K 9 3

West (Reynolds) East (Rodwell)
♠ Q 8 7 6 5 2 ♠ J 10 4
♥ Q 8 ♥ J 4 3
♦ 8 2 ♦ A Q J 10
♣ J 8 6 ♣ 10 7 5

South (Rosenberg)
♠ K 3
♥ A 10 6 2
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A Q 4 2

South West North East
1 ♣ 1 ♠ double 2 ♣
pass pass double pass
3 ♥ pass 4 ♥ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 6

The World Bridge Olympiad, in Lille, France, continues through this weekend with Open and Women's Pair events. The Mixed Pairs, the first event of the two-week tournament, was won by Antonio Vivaldi and Enza Rossano of Italy. Second were Claude Blouquit and Marc Bompis of France, and bronze medalists were Jens and Sabine Aulken of Denmark.

The Mixed Pairs does not require that both man and woman be from the same country, but, naturally, many married couples are contenders for the title and many partnerships are made up of men and women from the same area.

Today's deal had a number of variations to it, since the boards are duplicated at all tables. But the most interesting story comes from an all-American table. Two of the world's leading men players were South and East, Michael Rosenberg and Eric Rodwell. North was one of the top female players, Karen McCallum, and West was Leslie Reynolds, who is not well-known.

There are many theories about Mixed Pair events, most of them sexist, and one is that you can't trust the opponents' bidding. There are too many instances when the female of the partnership is catering to the male or when the male tries to hog the hand from the female. In today's deal, the West player fooled declarer, one of the best card play-

ers in the world, by making a super-aggressive overcall.

South opened one club and West made the most important bid on the hand when she overcalled one spade. This bid fooled declarer later in the play. Most players would take advantage of the favorable vulnerability (not vulnerable versus vulnerable) by jumping to two spades, a weak jump-overcall.

North's double of one spade was the "negative double," showing four cards in hearts. East raised spades and South passed with his minimum opening bid. North doubled again to show more values (this double was not for penalty) and South bid three hearts, raised to game by North.

Rosenberg won the spade opening spade lead in dummy and cashed the king of hearts. He then led the nine of hearts and, when East played low, Rosenberg ducked it to West's queen. This was a safety play, guarding against East holding four hearts to the queen-jack. West played a second spade and declarer won in hand, drew the last trump and was at the crossroads.

His thought process was something like this: If the clubs were not breaking, he would eventually have to ruff his fourth club in dummy, and he would need the ace of diamonds to be with West (by leading a diamond to the king). If the clubs were 3-3, he could make the contract if East held the ace of diamonds on a few rare layouts by cashing the clubs and then leading a diamond and ducking it to East, endingplay East. This play works as the cards lie, because East has four honors in diamonds.

But Rosenberg was anxious to score more than 620 for making 10 tricks. The Mixed Pairs is scored by matchpoints, so an over-trick would be worth a lot.

Rosenberg assumed West held the ace of diamonds for her one-spade overcall.

Therefore, he led a diamond toward the king, hoping that West would duck with a doubleton ace of diamonds. He could then play three rounds of clubs and, if the clubs were 3-3, lead a diamond to her bare ace, forcing her to give a ruff-sluff for his over-trick.

This wonderful plan failed miserably when East showed up with the ace of diamonds and cashed two more diamonds for the setting trick.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at gran@nevision.net.il

Chess A deadly game

By NIGEL SHORT

An opposition journalist is found brutally murdered outside Elista, capital of Kalmykia. The Russian Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin says that the murder was a contract killing and "in essence" political. According to *The Herald Tribune*, a report delivered to the State Duma said that the "three suspects being held in the case had links to the local government headed by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov" (sic) — spelled Ilyumzhinov on the business card he gave me.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of Kalmykia, is also the president of FIDE, the world chess federation. He has not been charged, but perhaps you will understand me when I say I feel a touch uneasy about going to the Chess Olympiad in Elista this September.

It has taken the World Cup for me to realize that African players rarely get a mention in this column. If any of them were as remotely gifted as the players on, for instance, the Nigerian soccer team, it would have been an omission indeed, but, alas, they are not. Still, standards are improving.

The southern Africa zonal tournament was won by Watu Kobese from South Africa. He has earned himself the right to participate in the FIDE World Championship in Las Vegas in December.

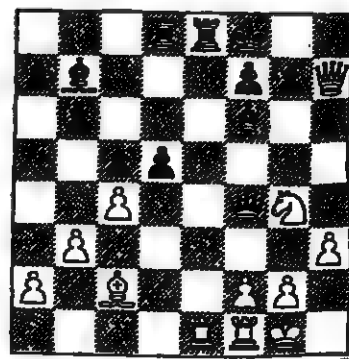
The \$3 million prize fund for the event will be provided by wealthy chess patron Kirsan Ilyumzhinov who, I forgot to mention earlier, has just announced his candidacy for the Russian presidency.

White: Watu Kobese
Black: Kudzana Mamombe
South Africa 1998

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Ng5 Ngf6 5... h6?? 6. Ne6 is just one of the cheap tricks in this line. 6. Bd3 e6 7. Nf3 Bd6 7... h6? 8. Nxe6! was most famous, the final game of Deep Blue vs. Kasparov, 1997. 8... 0-0 This has been played dozens of times but it rather defeats the object of putting the knight on g5 in the first place. 8. Qe2 is the most incisive move. 8... h6 9. Ne4 Nxe4 10. Bxe4 Nf6 11. Bd3 Qc7 12. b3 0-0

12... b6 13. Bb2 Bb7 with the intention of casting long looks safer. 13. Bb2 b6 14. c4 Bb7 15. Be2 Inaugurating a plan of greater effectiveness than subtlety (mate on h7). 15... Rad8 16. Qd3 Rfe8 17. h3 Be7 17... c5 18. d5 e5 could be considered, although the White d-pawn then becomes a sizable asset. 18. Ne5 c5 19. Ng4 Qd4 19... cxd4? 20. Nxf6+ Bxf6 21. Qh7+ Kf8 22. Ba3+! 20... d5! exd5 21. Bxf6 Bxf6 22. Qh7+ Kf8 23. Rael

Black (Mamombe) to play



White (Kobese)

The Black position is perilous. 23... Re6 24. B5 Bc3 25. Bxe6 Bxe1 26. Bxd5 26... Rxe1 fxe6 27. Qh8+ Ke7 28. Qxg7+ Qf7 29... Qxh6 looked even more promising. 26... Bxd5 27. Bxe1 Bc6 28. Ne5? 28... Qh8+ Ke7 29. Qxg7 was the depressingly crude but undoubtedly stronger approach. 28... Rd2 29. Ne2 Kxa2 30. Qh8+ Ke7 31. Rd1 Kf8 Obviously overlooked by Kobese, who now has to begin cooking all over again. 32. Qa8 h5? 33. g3 Qh6? Unnecessarily complacent. 33... Qc7 was far more tenacious. 34. h4 g6 35. Ng5 Kg7 36. Qe4 36... Nxe6+ fxe6 37. Rd7+ Kf6 38. Qf3+ Ke5 39. Qc3+ Kf5 40. Rf7+ Kg4 41. Qe3+ Kh3 42. Qg2+ Kg4 43. f3 mate was the course recommended by my computer. However, nothing is spoiled by the text. 36... Kf6 37. Rd6 Qh8 38. Qf4+ Ke7 39. Rxe6+! fxe6 40. Qe7+ Kf6 41. Qf7+ Ke5 42. Qxe6+ 42. Qf4 mate was more efficient, but I guess he was enjoying himself. 42... Kd4 43. Qe3 Mate.

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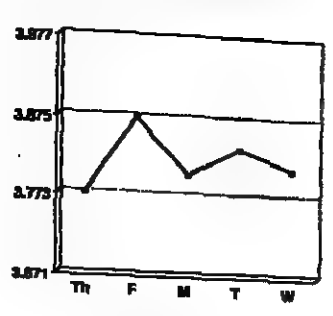
Thursday,
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

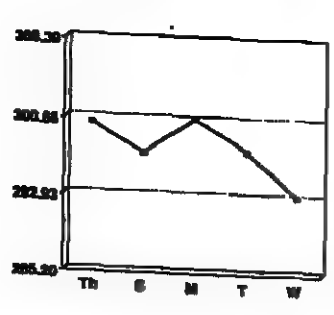
BUSINESS

in brief

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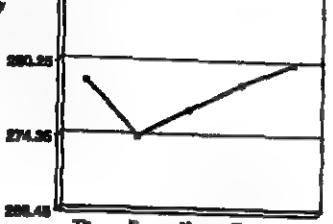


MAOF INDEX



GOLD

\$ per ounce

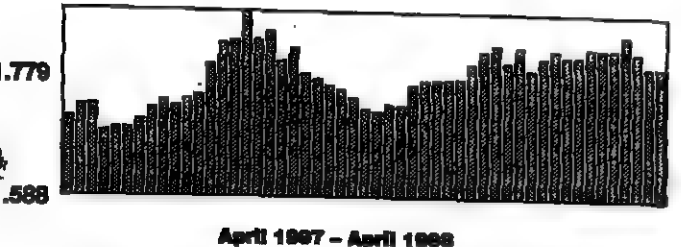


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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Sharon: Plan won't boost infrastructure

National Infrastructure Ministry Ariel Sharon said yesterday that the Treasury's proposals for the 1999 budget don't present the breakthrough needed in the fields of water and rail and road infrastructure. These proposals also do not provide an answer to renewing growth in the economy and reducing unemployment. Sharon said the budget would prevent the implementation of several projects - including the upgrade of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv railway, which would result in the operation of 14 trains daily at a cost of NIS 170 million. The project could be completed within 18 months, he said. Other plans that would be canceled are the purchase of tilting trains to shorten the travel time from Beersheba to Tel Aviv from 90 to 55 minutes and from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv from 105 to 55 minutes. *Nina Gilbert*

Gillerman: Freeze mayors' pay and city taxes

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to freeze wages of senior government officials should be expanded to mayors and local authority budgets, thus putting a halt to hikes in municipal taxes which milk the business sector, Federation of Chambers of Commerce president Dan Gillerman said yesterday. In a letter he sent yesterday to Netanyahu, Gillerman said businesses are suffering great difficulties from a drop in sales and profitability due to the slowdown in the economy. The municipal tax policy for 1999 is under discussion now, Gillerman said, and the government should take into account this situation. "The situation in which the business community is being milked for municipal taxes is a result of the belief that businesses can be an unending source of funds for covering the expenses of wasteful local authorities, including unreasonable salary rises for local authority workers," he said. *Nina Gilbert*

Housing starts fall 26% in first half

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The number of housing starts has dropped 26 percent during the first half of the year to 19,580 from 26,630 a year earlier, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. The number is also significantly lower than the 24,220 housing starts reported in the second half of 1997. Additionally, the figure is

will below the 50,000 housing starts the Housing Ministry and Contractors Association say are needed a year. Other economists say, however, that only 37,000-40,000 housing starts are needed annually. Despite the decline in the number of housing starts, there is no evidence it is leading to a rise in housing prices, and industry sources say the property market is far from

recovering. According to figures published earlier this year by the Housing Ministry, sales of new and second-hand apartments were down 8% during the first half of the year. The decline was greater among the 10 largest building companies, who reported a decline of 13% in sales in the first six months of 1998. The slowdown in the housing

market has worsened during the second quarter of the year, in which the number of housing starts fell to only 8,810 from 13,950 a year ago and 10,770 in the first quarter of the year. The CBS said 14,460 apartments were built by the private sector, while 5,120 were constructed by the government. The figures indicate that private housing starts fell 20%, while public starts dropped

40%. At the same time the completion of homes has also declined during the first half, falling to 26,040 from 30,190 in the first six months of 1997 and 33,460 in the second half. In addition, the number of housing units which are still under construction reached 80,000 at the end of June, compared with 94,300 a year earlier and 85,200 in March 1997.



Intense trading

Foreign exchange dealers react during trading at a Tokyo money brokerage yesterday. The dollar lost direction by midmorning, but profit-taking and hedge-linked offers capped the upside after hitting a high of 135 yen. Following up sales was limited as the dollar was well supported below 137 yen on short cover and bargain hunting. *(Reuters)*

FDA warns Teva over Copaxone publications

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The US Food and Drug Administration sent Teva Pharmaceutical Industries a warning letter that said the company published misleading information about Copaxone, Teva's Multiple Sclerosis medication. Bloomberg Business News reported yesterday that the letter said FDA inspectors found that the information endorsed Copaxone for unapproved uses and contained misleading information about the safety and effectiveness of the drug. Aaron Schwartz, head of the Copaxone Division and vice president of Teva, confirmed the Bloomberg report, saying that it is not expected to have a negative impact on sales of Copaxone,

which is Teva's most promising product. According to the report, Teva's brochures made misleading claims about how much the drug can be expected to help a patient stave off the debilitating effects of Multiple Sclerosis. In addition, the study that Teva said supported its claims was found to be inadequate. "The FDA routinely examines all drug publications. They decided that on several topics we went beyond their approval," Schwartz said. "We intend to do whatever is needed and send a clarification letter to the physicians we work with." He added that the FDA sends such letters very often and once the problem is fixed the FDA is expected to refrain from further action.

Livnat promises to end information monopolies

By JUDY GIEGEL

In the not-too-distant future, all types of information suppliers - from cable to telecommunications companies - will be able to supply information in a large variety of forms, Communications Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday. Even TV programs will be broadcast via the Internet, she added, and cable companies will supply phone services. Addressing a Tel Aviv seminar organized by Ma'ariv Congresses called "Who's Afraid of Open Skies," Livnat said the Israeli public, rather than monopolies or the government, will decide what media and information forms exist. "We are reaching the day when TV broadcasts will be offered via the Internet and other means, besides [conventional transmit-

ters], cable and satellite. And cable and satellite systems will be able to transmit telephony, data transmissions and other services," she said. Whoever tries to prevent this from happening, Livnat said, "will in the end find that this train has passed him by. Instead of fighting the wars of yesterday, I suggest to the opponents of change that want to protect their cultural monopoly in the face of all others to join the train of the future." Her ministry has had difficult negotiations with the cable companies, which enjoy a regional monopoly and oppose digital broadcasting by satellite (DBS) and other alternatives to their services. Livnat appointed ministry official Zvi Huser to speed up preparations for issuing DBS licenses, now that the Knesset has approved the system.

Sharansky: Recommended prices are not prices

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky issued a clarification yesterday to the new price-labeling regulations, saying that a recommended price printed by manufacturers does not constitute a price and therefore does not fulfill the requirement. On the eve of the launch of the new regulations in July, the dairy manufacturers - Ynava, Strauss and Tara - declared that they would mark recommended prices in the production line, based on the loophole that the measure did not specify who was to mark the price. The dairy manufacturers were adamant against including their products in the law, saying that it would lead to high costs and delays in refrigeration. In a letter sent to the heads of the large retail chains, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, and merchants organizations, Sharansky clarified his stance on the matter. The new regulations, he wrote, are aimed at protecting consumers and boosting competition in the economy. Consumer protection, Sharansky said, is reached by marking the price clearly on the product. "This enables the consumer to know unequivocally the price of the product he is buying," he said. This also enables the consumer to easily compare prices among competing products, and thereby boosts competition in the market place, he added. Sharansky said the move by

manufacturers - in coordination with the retail chains - to mark prices on the production line contradicts the aims of the regulations and the order itself, which requires marking the "price" and not the "recommended price." The marking of a recommended price, Sharansky continued, does not fulfill the regulation because it is not necessarily the price paid by the customer, does not give clear and exact information to the customer, and is likely to confuse the consumer. Marking a recommended price is also likely to harm competition since it can create a situation in which products are sold at that price, without variation among retailers, he said. Moreover, he said, the marking of recommended prices by manufacturers is likely to contradict free market principles. Ya'acov Gelbard, CEO of Blue Square Israel and chairman of the Retail Stores Association, said the merchants would deal with the matter when they receive Sharansky's letter. However, he said, the retail chains "don't intend to operate against the price-labeling law." Strauss has stopped marking prices, but Ynava CEO Arik Reichman said that, in the meantime, his company will continue to mark recommended prices on the production line. "We will wait to see what the retail chains do. If the retail chains begin marking prices I assume that we will stop marking them in the production line," he said.




ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Notice to Passengers Flying Abroad

At midnight on Saturday, September 5, clocks in Israel change from summer to winter time.

Those flying abroad on flights scheduled to take off at times close to the changeover are asked to clarify with the appropriate airline the exact time of their flight.

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MONEY MARKET

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 20

Wells, 11-0 at home this season, finished with a two-hitter and struck out a season-high 13.

He has five shutouts this year, tying Atlanta's Greg Maddux for the major league lead, and has seven complete games.

Bernie Williams and Tino Martinez homered for the Yankees, who got their 99th win in their 136th game. The 1954 Cleveland Indians hold the AL record for reaching 100 wins fastest, getting No. 100 in their 140th game.

White Sox 9, Orioles 5
Albert Belle set a club record with his 42nd home run and drove in four runs as Chicago sent visiting Baltimore to its ninth straight defeat.

Belle's fourth-inning solo shot off Doug Drabek broke the White Sox single-season mark, set in 1993 by Frank Thomas.

Mariners 7, Red Sox 3
Reliever Derek Lowe's throwing error led to two unearned runs to put Seattle ahead in the seventh inning as the Mariners got their first road victory this season over Boston.

Ken Griffey Jr. went 1-for-3 with a single and remained at 47 homers, most in the AL.

Tigers 12, Rangers 8
Deivi Cruz broke a tie with his first grand slam as Detroit won at home a few hours after Tigers manager Buddy Bell was fired and

replaced on an interim basis by coach Larry Parrish.

Will Clark and Ivan Rodriguez homered for the Rangers, who remained 2 1/2 games behind Anaheim for the AL West lead. Juan Gonzalez raised his RBI total to 144, tying the team record he set two years ago.

Indians 7, Angels 6
Mark Whiten had an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth.

After rookie Richie Sexson failed for the second time in the game to sacrifice with runners at first and second, Whiten lined the

game-winning hit to left-center to score David Justice.

Blue Jays 2, Royals 1
Alex Gonzalez and Shannon Stewart homered and Chris Carpenter allowed four hits in seven innings as visiting Toronto won its fifth straight.

Jose Offerman's triple and two doubles accounted for three of the hits off Carpenter (10-7), who won for the fourth time in five decisions. Following the win, the Blue Jays (72-66) are now a season-high six games over .500.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	99	57	.728	—
Boston	80	56	.588	19
Toronto	72	66	.522	28
Baltimore	69	69	.500	31
Tampa Bay	53	84	.387	46 1/2

Central Division

WILD CARD				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	80	56	.588	—
Texas	73	65	.529	8

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Seattle	76	63	.547	—
Texas	73	65	.529	2 1/2
San Diego	63	74	.460	12
Oakland	63	76	.453	13

Wild Card Standings

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	91	48	.655	—
New York	76	63	.547	15
Philadelphia	64	73	.467	25
Montreal	53	86	.381	38
Florida	47	92	.338	44

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National League

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Philadelphia	64	73	.467	25
Montreal	53	86	.381	38
Florida	47	92	.338	44

Central Division

STANDINGS				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	77	62	.554	—
New York	76	63	.547	1
San Francisco	75	64	.540	2

West Division

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CL			

Tim Belcher (12-11), who beat Carpenter 7-2 in Toronto last Wednesday with a smart three-hitter, allowed 10 hits in eight

innings.

Twins 6, Devil Rays 5 (10)
Matt Lawton's two-run triple in the bottom of the 10th inning lifted

ed Minnesota.

With the Twins trailing 5-4, Roberto Hernandez (2-6) walked Pat Meares, and Ouis Nixon fol-

lowed with a bunt single. Lawton followed with his game-winning triple off the glove of right fielder Rich Butler.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Inside

Baseball statistics

Page 18

Golf champ Middlecoff dies at 77

MEMPHIS (AP) — Cary Middlecoff, a two-time US Open champion and winner of the 1955 Masters, has died of heart failure. He was 77.

A former dentist, Middlecoff won 40 professional golf tournaments and is tied for seventh on the PGA's career victory list.

He won the US Open in 1949 and 1956.

Middlecoff considered his 1956 US Open title at Rochester, New York, as "probably my greatest accomplishment in golf."

On the PGA Tour, he was the leading money winner for the decade of the '50s. In 1986 he was inducted into the PGA World Golf Hall of Fame.

County Championship scores: Scores at the close of play in four-day English County Championship cricket matches yesterday.

At Dover (Day three) Sussex 332 (K. Newell 84, R. Martin-Jenkins 78, R. Rao 76; D. Thomas 4-63) and 183-9, Glamorgan 353-8 declared (M. Maynard 84, A. Collyer 91).

At Southampton: Middlesex 437 (A. Strauss 83, M. Gatting 77, R. Kettleborough 60, K. Brown 53) and 105-2, Hampshire 311 (G. White 108, D. Mascarenhas 63, R. Johnson 4-72).

At Bristol (Day two) Gloucestershire beat Northamptonshire by 10 wickets, Northamptonshire 123 (C. Walsh 6-36) and 85 (M. Smith 4-32; C. Walsh 4-30).

Gloucestershire 210 (R. Cunniffe 53; F. Rose 4-63) and 9-0, Gloucestershire 21 points, Northamptonshire 4.

At Taunton: Worcestershire 224 (G. Haynes 56, A. Caddick 8-64), Somerset 136-6 (G. Haynes 4-38).

At Edgbaston: Leicestershire 389 (D. Lilling 59, S. Smith 88, M. Brimmon 54 not out; T. Munton 4-50), Warwickshire 157-6 (C. Lewis 4-50).

At Headingley: Yorkshire 250-9 declared (C. Hogg 55, D. Byas 62, M. Butler 4-41), Surrey 17-0.

At Old Trafford: Derbyshire 281 (M. Cassar 70, R. de Freitas 69), Lancashire 214-8 (J. Crawley 96 not out, G. Lloyd 56 not out).

Mac breaks NL home run mark

McGwire hits pair to go past Hack Wilson's 56; Wells hurls 2-hit shutout

MIAMI (AP) — Mark McGwire homered twice, raising his season total to 57 and breaking Hack Wilson's 68-year-old NL record as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the

Sosa hits No. 56

Sammy Sosa tied the Chicago Cubs' record last night with his 56th home run of the season as the hosts beat the Cincinnati Reds, 4-3.

Hack Wilson hit 56 homers in 1930, a National League record that stood until Tuesday night, when McGwire homered twice at Florida.

Sosa, leading off the bottom of the sixth, hit an 0-1 pitch from Cincinnati's Jason Benoit into the first row of the right field bleachers.

Florida Marlins 7-1 Tuesday night.

McGwire hit a 450-foot drive off Livan Hernandez (10-11) leading off the seventh, then hit a 472-foot shot to nearly the same spot off Done Pall leading off the ninth.

It was McGwire's seventh multi-homer game this season and the 50th of his career, leaving him four short of Roger Maris' record with 24 games left. He began the night tied with Sammy Sosa at 55 homers in their race to break Maris' 37-year-old record.

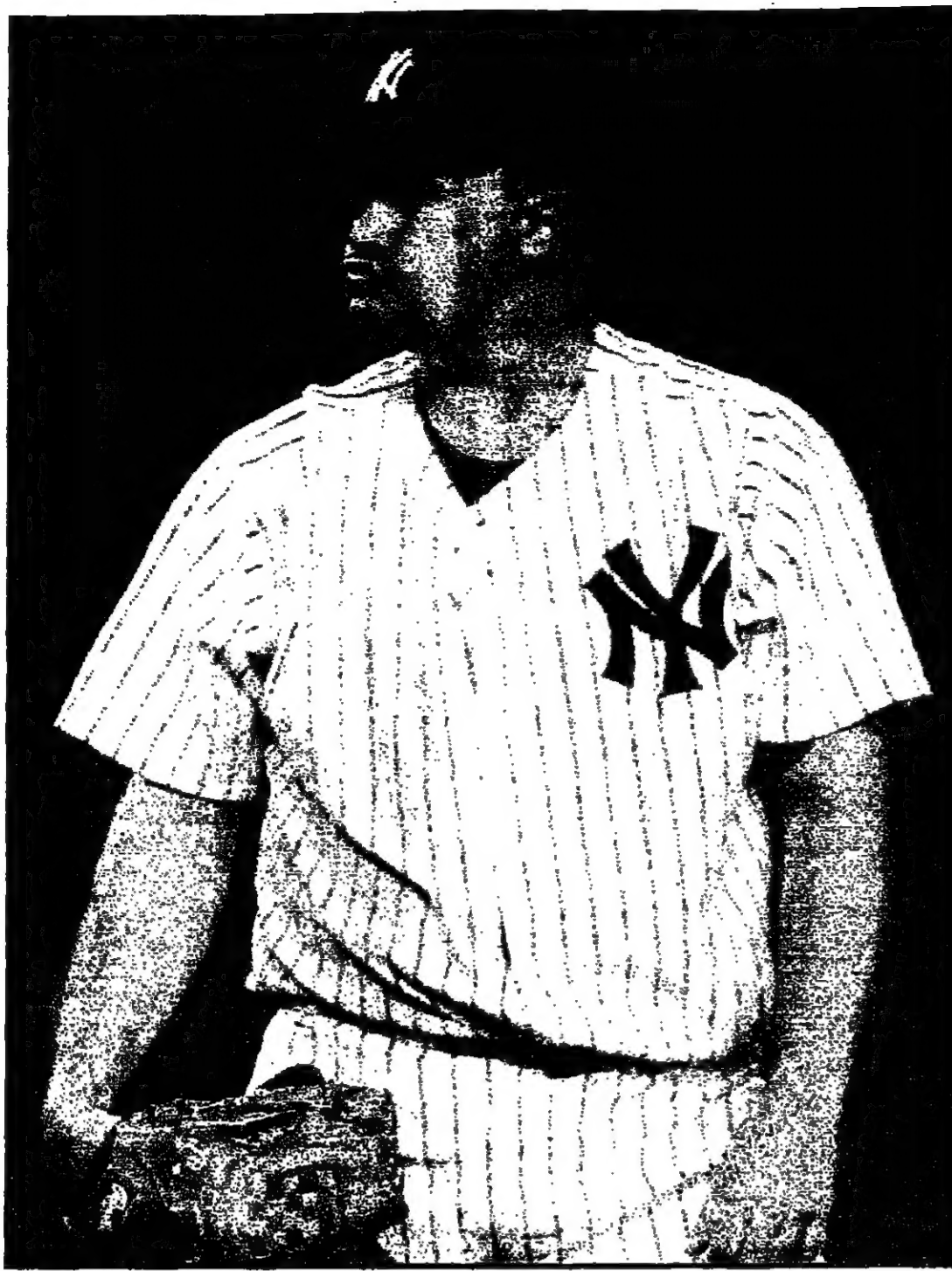
Cubs 6, Reds 5. Sosa went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts, but Mark Grace hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth off Gabe White (5-4) to give the Cubs a home win.

Braves 6, Astros 4. Javy Lopez kept up a torrid pace by homering in his fourth straight game.

Lopez's three-run homer highlighted a four-run bottom-of-the-fourth inning.

Diamondbacks 4, Pirates 3. Omar Daal (7-9) struck out a franchise-record 12 batters in eight innings and Arizona scored all of its runs in the first two innings to win on the road.

Playing in Pittsburgh for the first time, the Diamondbacks won their fourth in a row to match the longest winning streak in their brief history. They had two other four-game streaks ear-



NEARLY PERFECT — Yankees' David Wells reacts after A's Jason Giambi spoiled his perfect game bid with a two-out, seventh-inning single. Wells finished with a two-hit, complete game shutout to up his season mark to 17-2.

lier this season.

Rockies 12, Brewers 3. Jamey Wright (8-12) allowed five hits in six innings to set a career high for wins, and Darryl Hamilton hit a three-run homer as Colorado won on the road.

Dodgers 3, Phillies 2. Ismael Valdes (10-9), making his first appearance in over five weeks, scattered five hits in seven shutout innings, and Charles Johnson hit a two-run homer for the hosts.

Bobby Estalella led off the ninth with a 444-foot homer, his fifth, off Jeff Shaw. Shaw got the next three batters for his 39th save. Paul Byrd lost despite allowing only two hits and one run in six innings.

Padres 9, Mets 8.

Quilvio Vera drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh. Trevor Hoffman pitched the ninth for his 45th save, breaking the club record set by Mark Davis in 1989 en route to winning the NL Cy Young award.

The Mets fell one game behind Chicago in the NL wild-card race. Greg Vaughn hit his 46th and 47th homers, went 3-for-5, drove in three runs and scored three times.

Giants 9, Expos 7.

Joe Carter hit his first homer in 40 career at-bats as a pinch hitter, a three-run drive that sparked a seven-run sixth inning as San Francisco notched a home win.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yankees 7, A's 0.

David Wells almost did it again. Wells flustered with his second perfect game of the year as the New York Yankees defeated the Oakland Athletics 7-0 Tuesday night.

There have never been two perfect games in the same season. But for six innings, it looked like Wells (17-2) might push Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa out of the headlines for a night.

Wells, who retired all 27 Minnesota Twins on May 17 at Yankee Stadium, retired his first 20 batters in order. With two outs in the seventh, he hung an 0-2 breaking ball that Jason Giambi hit softly into center field for a single.

See BASEBALL, Page 18

Korda ousted

Chang ends Israel's US Open hopes

NEW YORK (AP) — Australian Open champion Petr Korda failed to reach the second round of the US Open, falling yesterday to qualifier Bernd Karbacher of Germany 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

The fourth-seeded Korda was the highest seed to lose on Day 3 of the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

In other first-round men's matches yesterday, 13th-seeded Tim Henman of Britain advanced to the second round with a 6-3, 6-7 (4-), 7-6 (7-3) victory over Australia's Scott Draper.

American Michael Chang eliminated Eyal Etlich of Israel 6-1, 6-3, 6-1, and Italy's Giorgio Galimberti stopped Michael Russell of the United States, 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

At Sugiyama of Japan became the first women's seed to fall when she sprained her left ankle and retired in the first set while leading Gala Leon Garcia of Spain 3-2.

In other women's matches, Steffi Graf, the eighth seed, took only 41 minutes to zip past German compatriot Marlene Weingartner 6-0, 6-1. Also posting early victories yesterday were Kimberly Po of the US and Mirjana Lucic of Croatia.

Graf controlled nearly every point as she pounded out the easy victory and ran her consecutive match winning streak at the US Open to 16. She won the title in her last two appearances here, but missed last year's tournament when she was recuperating from knee surgery.

Tuesday's late matches. Patrick Rafter survived a first-round scare from an underdog from Morocco, coming back from two sets down to win as he opened defense of his championship.

Never has a defending singles titlist at the US national championships lost in the first round, but the Australian came close before rallying to beat Hicham Azzi 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

It was the fourth time Rafter has rallied from a two-set deficit to win and his ninth straight five-set win. He is 10-2 overall in five-sets.

Azzi appeared to be in control of what would have been by far the biggest upset of the tournament's first two days, up two sets and two points away from a 3-1 lead in the third.

But he came unglued after a line call went against him at that point and argued repeatedly with umpire Norm Chryst of the US the rest of the way.

TV replays showed the call, on a crosscourt backhand at deuce, was very close but it was unclear from the tape if the ball was in or out.

Greg Rusedski, last year's runner-up and the sixth seed this time, also survived a five-set battle of 120-mph serves with Wayne Ferreira, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 5-7, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4.

The day's entertainment was provided by a spectacular victory by fifth-seeded Venus Williams.

The 18-year-old, the runner-up a year ago, so dominated and frustrated her opponent, Elena Wagner in a 6-1, 6-0 pasting that the German even tried to serve underhand after all else had failed.

Earlier, Lindsay Davenport showed a muscle game in a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Catalina Criseta.

Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna scored a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Jennifer Capriati, who is in the midst of another comeback.

And 16-year-old cover girl sensation Anna Kournikova, seeded 15th, got past Lea Ghuradi 6-1, 6-3.

English players face int'l ban for playing in Super League

LONDON (AP) — English soccer players and Premier League clubs face international and domestic bans if they join an unsanctioned European Super League, England's Football Association said yesterday.

FA chairman Keith Wiseman issued the warning on the eve of a meeting in London today of all Premier League clubs to discuss the proposals by Milan-based Media Partners for a new European competition.

Wiseman said English players involved in the breakaway league could be banned from international competition, while Premier League clubs

which joined the Super League would be banned from all domestic competitions.

Wiseman said he was confident Premier League clubs would reject the Super League in favor of UEFA's plan to expand its European tournaments.

He predicted a Europe League would be created within a few years under the proper structure of the game and after consultation with the major domestic leagues.

The Media Partners proposal is for a two-tier 32 team competition, with the 16 leading European clubs playing mid-week home and away matches in a European Super League competition.

Hoddle, Adams put up united front

LONDON (AP) — England soccer coach Glenn Hoddle and defender Tony Adams ignored their published differences of opinion to present a united front as England prepare for their opening Euro 2000 qualifier against Sweden.

Adams' book *Addicted*, published this week in retaliation to Hoddle's controversial World Cup diary, criticized Hoddle's handling of the team during the World Cup and sparked concerns of a rift in the England camp.

But Hoddle sat beside Adams during a press conference yesterday at Burnham Beeches, where the English squad is training for Saturday's match against Sweden in Stockholm, and said there were no problems between the two.

Hoddle was widely condemned for betraying the confidences of players by publishing accounts of the World Cup and criticizing certain players and coaches.

Premier League coaches and players led calls for Hoddle to

step down as coach after he revealed last month how Paul Gascoigne went berserk when he was dropped from the squad for the World Cup.

Adams, the Arsenal captain, said he was putting his international career on the line by publishing his version of events.

In the book, he criticized Hoddle for treating the team like children, selecting Alan Shearer over him as captain, and humiliating David Beckham in front of the team.

Man City to let fans decide

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — Manchester City will let their fans decide whether the club should move to a £90 million stadium being built in the city for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The English second division club have been offered ownership of the 50,000-seater stadium in exchange for their current Maine Road ground once the Games are over.

City chairman David Bernstein was quoted in the Manchester

Evening News yesterday as saying: "Before anything is decided... we want to know what our supporters think. If our fans don't want to move to the new stadium then we won't go."

Last season the high-profile club, winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1970, were deemed to life outside the top two divisions for the first time since they were formed more than a century ago.

NFL rolling in clover

NEW YORK (AP) — The players are getting rich, the club owners are getting very rich and television is willing to pay for it all. The NFL, with labor peace well into the next decade, is in the best shape of any US professional sport as it approaches the new millennium.

Not even the impending retirement of such stars as John Elway, Dan Marino and Reggie White can take away from the glow.

These are grand times for American pro football, which has no lock-out woes, no ratings problems and plenty of big names and showcase teams to go around.

"The new television deal is the most significant in TV history," Pat Bowlen, owner of the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, says of the \$17.6 billion, eight-year contract the league signed with commercial networks Fox, CBS and ABC.

When the season begins Sunday, each of the 30 NFL teams will have seen the salary cap rise by more than \$11 million.

Two days after the season begins, the league will introduce the winner of bidding for the Cleveland Browns expansion team that begins play next year. The expected price tag: close to \$500m.

And because that will bring the NFL membership to 31, necessitating a bye each week of 1999 season, further expansion will come soon. Some are predicting the cost for an expansion franchise will soon reach \$1b.

But this is the 1998 season, which begins with an AFC team on top for the first time since 1984. The Broncos won a thrilling Super Bowl over Green Bay, and they weren't raided the way most defending champions are. John Elway decided to return for one more season. Terrell Davis is one of American football's most dominant players and the Broncos should have another strong run in them.

As should the Packers, who were the NFC finalists, led by three-time MVP Brett Favre.

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Athens	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Berlin	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Brussels	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Copenhagen	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Dublin	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Frankfurt	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Geneva	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
London	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Madrid	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Moscow	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Paris	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Rome	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Stockholm	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Vienna	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Warsaw	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15
Zurich	18/15	18/15	18/15	18/15

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Ariel	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Bethlehem	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Beer Sheva	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Haifa	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Jerusalem	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Nahariya	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Netanya	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Ramat Gan	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Ramla	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Tel Aviv	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Tiberias	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Anchorage	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Atlanta	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Boston	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Chicago	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Dallas	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Denver	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Detroit	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Houston	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Los Angeles	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
London	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Manila	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Mexico City	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Montreal	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
New York	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
San Francisco	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Seattle	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Toronto	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Vancouver	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10
Washington	24/15	20/15	20/15	21/10

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